■ **2bU! / D4**

Cocktail designs or how to stock up on wine, champagne and still stay sober

■ **News / A2**

'El Presidente' strikes back, wants annulment

■ **World / A13**

Japan prepares to allow female succession, 1st time in 200 years

■ **Metro / A23**

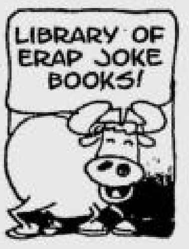
WPD intelligence cop killed in stakeout of robbery suspects

Tanong ng Bayan / A16

May saysay pa ba ang Edsa I?

CELLCARD KADA ARAW, CELLPHONE KADA LINGGO! Text 2910 now!

Now, what? Erap wants to build library in Tanay


LIBRARY OF ERAP JOKE BOOKS!

By Armand N. Nocum

FIRST, he requested a luxurious rest-house arrest.

Now comes an appeal from the daughter of ousted President Joseph Estrada to build a "resi-

NOW/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

No Presidential Medal of Merit for FPJ, after all

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE PRESIDENTIAL Medal of Merit was awarded last night to two late stalwarts of the entertainment industry—but not to the late actor and opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., as Malacañang had earlier offered to do.

President Macapagal-Arroyo handed the

NO PRESIDENTIAL/ A22

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Wednesday, February 23, 2005 ★★ 68 pages 6 sections Vol. 20 No. 77 P18
website: www.inq7.net

2 bombing suspects fall

2 portraits of Roldan: Sinner or saint

By Norman Bordadora and Christian V. Esguerra

HE IS either a loving husband who adores his wife and children, or a man driven to the edge by losses in gambling, such as cockfighting.

The portrait one gets of former Quezon City Rep. Dennis Roldan, now detained over allegations of heading a kidnap-for-ransom gang, depends on who one talks to.

Lawyer Salvador Panelo yesterday described his client as a model husband and father, able to more than adequately provide for his wife and five children, aged from 9 to 18.

Panelo, who has accused the police of illegally arresting and torturing the former actor, said Roldan owned a 10-hectare farm, planted to 400 mango trees, in Iba, Zambales.

He also has a piggery, a 12-room resort near a Zambales beach, and owns Maximus restaurant on Kamias Road in Quezon City, which offers billiards and an off-track betting station for horse racing, the lawyer said.

"Somebody helps him manage his businesses. He spends a lot of

2 PORTRAITS/ A6

VALENTINE'S DAY bombing suspects Gamal Baharan alias Tapay and Angelo Trinidad alias Abu Khalil Trinidad, a Muslim convert, are presented to the media at Camp Aguinaldo on Tuesday. Authorities claim their investigation revealed that Abu Sayyaf commander Abu Solaiman allegedly assigned the suspects to the bombing mission in Makati. JOAN BONDOC

Abu bandits identified by bus conductor

By Alcuin Papa and Christian V. Esguerra

SECURITY forces have arrested two suspected Abu Sayyaf members for the deadly bombing of a passenger bus in Makati on Valentine's Day, bolstering fears that the bandit group had brought its war of terror to Metro Manila.

Using a Nokia cell phone to detonate the bomb that killed four people, the two suspects told investigators they were ordered to carry out the attack by an Abu Sayyaf commander, the military said yesterday.

It said the pair were trained by the regional network Jemaah Islamiyah and that the Abu Sayyaf was also believed responsible for the near simultaneous bombing of a Davao City bus terminal on Feb. 14.

Intelligence agencies have tagged the JI as the regional arm of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

An informant who had masked his face pointed to the two alleged bombers when they were presented to the media at Camp Aguinaldo.

"There is an indirect involve-

2 BOMBING/ A8

No money, no national ID, say lawmakers

By Carlito Pablo and Christine O. Avendaño

NO MONEY, no ID.

A national identification system cannot be implemented this year because there is no fund allocated for it in the 2005 budget, the chair of the House committee on appropriations said yesterday.

Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, Camarines Sur) said an ID system could be implemented in 2006 at the earliest if a law providing for the system was passed.

"It's already impossible," Andaya said in an interview when asked whether an ID system could be implemented this year.

"First, there is no such appropriation in either of the House or Senate version (of the 2005 budget). You cannot insert something out of the blue," he said.

Andaya said that for starters, the "legal framework for such a purpose must be defined."

"That expense must be pursuant to law. The guidelines on how to spend the money by which agency and for what purpose must be in our statutes," he said.

Even if a law were to be passed, the appropriation of funds for its implementation is

NO MONEY/ A22

PAPA NUR. Nurhata, 4, turns the once and future(?) revolutionary Misuari into a gentle, loving father in his detention camp in Santa Rosa, Laguna. MITCH MAURICIO

Misuari denies ordering men to attack Army

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Cynthia D. Balana
in Manila

STA. ROSA, Laguna—Finally, a word from the man himself.

Nur Misuari, the jailed ex-chair of the Moro National Liberation Front, yesterday denied having ordered his followers in the MNLF to

MISUARI/ A22

THE ORIGINAL EDSA

Ramboys' book to tell what happened at Edsa

By Michael Lim Ubac

"DURING the time of darkness, we, together with a few, held hands and jumped into the void risking everything, praying for light and change. This act of RAM (Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa) sparked the 1986 revolt."

Thus spoke former Sen. Gringo Honasan as he clarified RAM's pivotal role in the Edsa I revolt which brought down the Marcos dictatorship.

He added that RAM wasn't looking to be given credit because "the heroes of Edsa I will always be the Filipino people."

He told the INQUIRER that 19 years after the revolt, Filipinos had yet to read a definitive account of the events that transpired before, during and after Edsa I.

Because RAM's contributions to the peaceful revolution had been "marginalized and even distorted," he said RAM was coming up with a book, a retelling of the historic event from the perspective of its members.

"We are going to write a book which will contain first-hand accounts of what happened in 1986 and the period before and after that. We've started the manuscripts. It is an interesting book—not so much as history, but as our story—the story of RAM in '86 and after that," said

RAMBOYS'/ A7

GMA urges Filipinos to fight graft in gov't

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ADDRESSING a government-mobilized rally to mark the first day of Edsa 1 People Power Revolution 19 years ago, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called on Filipinos to help her fight corruption in government.

"This is the legacy of Edsa—the fight against corruption," Ms Arroyo said before a crowd of government officials and employees and representatives from different sectors at an afternoon rally at the Edsa Shrine.

Ms Arroyo recalled how Filipinos from all walks of life stunned the world when they stopped tanks and silenced guns, toppled a corrupt regime and restored democracy with the sheer power of prayers and love of country.

"But our triumph is not complete. Our fight is not yet over," Ms Arroyo said.

"Thousands of Filipinos are still waiting for true freedom—freedom from the chains of poverty, injustice and oppression, and to attain this, we need

GMA/ A7

MITCH MAURICIO

WHERE were the people in "People Power?" The thousands at the Edsa Shrine marching to the People Power Monument were "invited" by the government. *(Story on Page A6.)*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2005
Second FRONT PAGE
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/23/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

House stands firm on 12% VAT

By Carlito Pablo

HOUSE members yesterday stood their ground on a 12 percent value-added tax in the face of the senators' rejection of a House bill hiking the VAT rate from the current 10 percent.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda (Lakas-Kampi), chair of the committee on economic affairs, said the Lower House would insist on the two percentage-point VAT increase, noting that this was the position of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The President wants that we should still go for 12 percent," Salceda said at a press briefing.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson (LP), the vice chair of the ways and means committee, said the Senate and the House had reached an impasse on the VAT bill as indicated by the cancelation of a scheduled meeting yesterday of the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council.

He said Malacañang had canceled the meeting because the President did not want the Ledac to become a debating ground on the VAT between senators and congressmen.

"We have not gone into the bicameral level and yet we are in a deadlock already. The senators are complicating matters," Singson said.

He noted that even the separate proposal to lift VAT exemptions, particularly against the independent power producers, could face rough sailing.

The Senate ways and means committee last week said it was inclined to junk the bill proposing to increase the VAT rate to 12 percent and retain the present 10-percent rate, but cancel the exemptions being enjoyed by IPPS, airlines, shipping companies and cooperatives.

Singson said imposing the VAT on IPPs would result in the impairment of their contracts with the National Power Corp., which violate the 1987 Constitution.

He warned the IPPs could even question the legality of a bill lifting their VAT exemption before the Supreme Court.

But Albay Rep. Luis Villafuerte (Kampi) said the senators' rejection of the 12 percent VAT bill may not represent the final position of the Senate.

Salceda, an economic adviser to the President, said the administration needed to raise P80 billion in tax revenues to solve a budget deficit crisis and was looking at all possible options, including the lifting of VAT exemptions for such sectors as oil and power, an increase in the excise tax of tobacco and alcohol and a hike in corporate income taxes.

"The bottom line is we have to get P80 billion," Salceda said.

He said Ms Arroyo was open to a proposal to reduce the individual income tax rate by 20 percent and increase corporate taxes to 35 percent.

An income tax cut would shift the tax burden from the middle class to the corporate sector, Salceda said.

SAGIP BUHAY DONATION

Speaker Jose de Venecia turns over the P250,000 donation of the House of Representatives for the Sagip Buhay fund drive of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Catholic Media Network (CMN) for the typhoon victims of Infanta, Quezon, to Fr. Francis Lucas of CMN and INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto. De Venecia said the House canceled its traditional Christmas party in December to raise funds for the flood victims. Witnessing the turnover are (left to right) Representatives Junie Cua, Rolando Andaya Jr., Edgar Chatto, Abraham Mitra, Eric Singson, Benigno Aquino III, Ma. Amelita Villarosa, Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin, Juan Miguel Zubiri, Arthur Defensor and Eduardo Zialcita.

PDI PHOTO/REM ZAMORA

The 'Franchise' strikes back

Fernandez files annulment case vs wife, cites 'psychological incapacity'

CEBU CITY—Former basketball player Ramon Fernandez has asked a court here to annul his 28-year marriage to his estranged wife, Marissa, whom he accused of being "psychologically incapable of performing her essential marital obligations."

Fernandez, 51, yesterday filed a declaration of nullity of marriage before the regional trial court here, eight days after Marissa sought for a court protection order from her husband, accusing him of physically abusing her.

Marissa, 47, filed an application for a temporary and permanent protection order against Fernandez under the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act of 2004 at the Muntinlupa regional trial court on Valentine's Day.

Fernandez, known in his playing days as "The Franchise" and "El Presidente," yesterday said he did want to comment on the case filed by his wife which he said had taken him by surprise.

"I am willing to answer all the charges in court. I don't want to comment more about the case and throw mud in the public. We cannot live together anymore. I was just waiting for the children to grow up before filing this complaint," he said in a mixture of Filipino and English.

The couple was married on May 21, 1977. He was 24 and she, 19. The union produced four children, ranging in age from 17 to 27.

In his complaint, Fernandez said he would not contest his wife's custody over the children or the disposition of their conjugal properties. He also said he would waive his share of the conjugal assets in favor of his children.

The former basketball star, who is now based in Cebu City, said he left the conjugal home in Alabang in May 2004.

"I am very fine. I'm back in my home port here," said Fernandez, who runs a basketball clinic here.

"Life is a ball," he said.

Fernandez ran for a party-list seat in the May 2004 elections but lost.

Fernandez alleged in his complaint that his wife was "psychologically incapable of performing her essential marital obligations."

He claimed the condition already existed before their marriage and became apparent during their 28 years together.

He also alleged that Marissa would nag him and physically attack him every time they had arguments.

"During their marriage, the defendant exhibited traits showing that she wanted the plaintiff all for herself. She disallowed him from mingling with his friends and even his relatives. She abhors them. Whenever the plaintiff would go to Taytay or Leyte, she would feign an ailment and request Ramon to rush her to the hospital. She employs subterfuge and ploys to get what she wanted," the complaint stated.

Fernandez attached to his complaint a psychological report prepared by Frederick Boholst of the psychology department of the University of San Carlos here.

Lawyer Briccio Boholst, one of Fernandez's lawyers, told the INQUIRER that his client suffered depression and had consulted a psychologist last month.

Boholst said the psychological report would show that Marissa was suffering from a social disorder known as "personality disorder not otherwise specified."

He said the disorder was clinically diagnosed to be permanent and incurable.

"The basis for filing this complaint is what we call a psychological incapacity to perform essential marital obligations. We have a psychological report that determines the personality disorder suffered by the respondent," the lawyer said. *Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Singapore Airlines

Travelog

SPECIAL AIRFARES AND TOUR PACKAGES UNTIL MARCH 2005

SINGAPORE from US$308 With 2-night hotel accommodation	KUALA LUMPUR from US$388 With 2-night hotel accommodation	BANGKOK from US$408 With 3-night hotel accommodation	BALI from US$418 With 2-night hotel accommodation	AUSTRALIA from US$678 With 3-night hotel accommodation
AUSTRALIA from US$548	LOS ANGELES/ SAN FRANCISCO from US$798	EUROPE from US$898	LOS ANGELES (on Executive Economy Class) from US$1,158	NEW YORK (on Executive Economy Class) from US$1,368

Book and buy ONLINE at www.singaporeair.com/ph

A GREAT WAY TO FLY

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

For more information on the above packages and airfares, please call your travel agent or SIA Reservations at 810-4951 to 59 (for airfares) and SIA Tours Desk at 751-5151/52 (for packages).

For departures from Cebu/Davao, please call SIA Provincial Reservations in Cebu at (032) 232-9211 and Davao at (082) 244-5608. All prices quoted are per person (packages are based on twin-sharing with applicable surcharge for single occupancy) and exclude taxes, fees and surcharges. Discount applies to children below 12 years old. Travel is valid from January to March 2005. Peak season surcharge applies for departures ex-MNL from 16-31 March 2005 to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Bali, and from January-February/16-31 March 2005 to Australia. Other terms and conditions apply.

Air Force officer slain in clash with NPA rebels

AN AIR Force officer was killed and two other soldiers wounded yesterday as government forces clashed with communist guerrillas in Lian, Batangas, authorities said.

New People's Army guerrillas suffered an undetermined number of casualties in the clash with a joint military-police patrol in Barangay Cumba in Lian at about 6:45 a.m. yesterday.

The military, backed by aircraft, are pursuing the rest of the NPA band, said Senior Supt. Francisco Don Montenegro, the provincial police director.

Killed was 1st Lt. Moreno Servito, a member of the Air Force's 730th Operations Wing. The injured soldiers have yet to be identified.

According to Montenegro, Servito's group was patrolling a hilly area of Barangay Cumba when they chanced upon some 40 NPA rebels.

He said Servito died at the start of the firefight.

During the clearing operations, two NPA male rebels were captured, Montenegro said.

He said there were no reported fatalities on the rebel side but there were indications that many had been wounded.

The clash was the third in a week between the communist insurgents and government troops in Batangas province.

Military reports indicate that about a hundred NPA fighters have reached Batangas from the island of Mindoro ahead of joint US-Philippine military exercises in the neighboring provinces of Quezon and Laguna.

The NPA earlier warned US troops taking part in annual joint military exercises with Philippine forces that they would be attacked if they strayed into rebel-influenced areas of the country.

Some 300 American and 650 Filipino troops began joint training exercises on Luzon island on Sunday.

However, US Embassy deputy chief of mission Joseph Mussomeli downplayed the warning, saying that while security measures were in place, the NPA statement was largely an empty threat.

The 8,000-strong NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, considered a terrorist organization by the Philippines and the United States. *Marlon Ramos and Mei Magsino-Lubis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, Alcuin Papa, Metro Manila and AFP*

Another corporate exec tapped

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is reportedly appointing a top corporate executive to head Clark Development Corp. (CDC) as a final step in her bid to make the former American military bases reach their full potential.

A Malacañang source said Ms Arroyo was seriously considering Amkor Anam Philippines president Tony Ng to replace CDC president and chief executive officer Emmanuel Angeles who would be retiring on March 16.

Ng is credited for shepherding the growth of Amkor Anam, the world's largest provider of chip packaging and test services. This in turn, helped the integrated-circuit operations flourish in the Philippines.

When asked to confirm this report, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye replied: "I have no idea."

Placing a savvy manager instead of a politician to oversee the development of the former American air base was in keeping with the President's decision to put former Ayala Land Inc. president Francisco H. Licuanan III as head of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) last year in lieu of Bataan lawmaker Felicito Payumo Jr.

Subic and Clark have generated substantial investments and improvements since the American troops left in the 1990s. But observers said these gains were still far from the full potential expected from the former military bases with their strategic location and wide open space for development.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

HIDDEN PROBLEM

RP sitting on tip of AIDS iceberg

THE PHILIPPINES is sitting on the tip of an HIV/AIDS iceberg and worried health authorities have no idea how big the problem facing the country is, a top official told an international conference here Tuesday.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said that the Philippines had 2,200 confirmed cases of HIV and 676 cases of AIDS according to latest figures, but officials feared that the true level of infection could be far higher.

"We in the Philippines are sitting on the tip of an iceberg and we don't know how big the base is," Dayrit told the conference organized by various bodies including the World Health Organization and UNAIDS.

Dayrit said that up to one million prostitutes and an estimated one to two million of their clients were vulnerable to HIV/AIDS but emphasized that the problem was no longer limited to the sex trade.

"It cuts across all boundaries... rich and poor," Dayrit said, saying that the fight against the disease in this Roman Catholic nation needed to be brought out into public domain. "What we need in the Philippines is a public face to the HIV/AIDS fight. Something which will galvanize the nation. Whatever the government says will have little impact."

He said one of the biggest challenges was increasing sex education in schools.

"HIV/AIDS needs to be brought out into the open," he said. "Young people need to be told that they are not invincible and we have to start telling people that they should start taking responsibility for their own sexual behavior."

Dayrit said those most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS include between 500,000 to one million prostitutes; 15.7 million young people between 15 and 24 years of age; an estimated one to two million clients of sex workers, and an estimated 7.6 million overseas Filipino workers.

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS has doubled in recent years and has spread beyond sex workers, Dayrit said.

"Although our numbers for HIV/AIDS is small when compared with other countries in the region, there is no room for complacency. My concerns are with the hidden challenges," he said.

Of the cases so far reported in the Philippines, 69 percent were in the 20- to 39-year-old age group and 63 percent were males, according to government data.

The data shows that sexual intercourse remained the leading mode of HIV transmission at 92 percent, with returning overseas Filipino workers accounting for 33 percent of the reported HIV cases.

The WHO and the Department of Health have estimated that at the end of 2003 there were 10,000 Filipinos infected with HIV.

At the end of 2004 the United Nations program on HIV/AIDS estimates that in Asia and the Pacific there were 8.2 million people living with HIV/AIDS. *AFP*

Execs hid plan to buy Napocor chopper—Joker

By Michael Lim Ubac

ENERGY officials deliberately hid the impending purchase of a brand new helicopter worth P336 million to lawmakers during budget deliberations, Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

Arroyo said the purchase was not included in the budget of the state-owned National Power Corp. and its attached agency, the National Transmission Commission.

He noted that while the bidding had been scheduled for Feb. 4, the Senate wrapped up its deliberations on the Napocor and Transco budget on Feb. 7 not knowing about the helicopter purchase.

Arroyo said this following a privilege speech by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. Monday seeking an inquiry into the purchase.

Magsaysay said the purchase was "patently unconscionable" because government was trying to "sell and privatize (Transco) so that the Philippine government and the Filipino people will be less burdened by such a white elephant."

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. confirmed the item was not in Transco's spending package so it was possible that "corporate funds" would be used to buy the helicopter.

"Although a government-controlled corporation, Transco officials are still liable to Congress on how they disburse their funds," said Villar.

Arroyo said while the proposed 2005 national budget was replete with provisions forbidding the purchase of new vehicles, Transco was "free as a bird" to purchase a brand new, twin-engine helicopter for P336 million.

"The President should rein in her executives in Napocor and Transco in their spending spree because thrift and transparency are anathema to them," said Arroyo.

Arroyo said Transco could not justify the purchase because it already had a fleet of six helicopters and two airplanes it could use anytime: two BK-117, two Bell 206B and two B0-105 helicopters, and one BN-2T Islander and BE-350 King Air planes.

King Air is an executive-type private plane worth $2 to $3 million.

According to Arroyo, Guillermo Redoblado, Transco's vice president for Luzon operations and maintenance and chair of the bid and awards committee, will be made to explain the purchase plan.

But Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said Transco officials should resign immediately.

"If they don't know how to be economical and they are further burdening the people, they have no business staying in government," said Enrile, noting that the fleet of helicopters should be "reconditioned" to save money.

In a paid advertisement which came out in the INQUIRER on Feb. 4, Transco called on suppliers to bid for the supply and delivery of one unit of brand new, multi-role, twin-engine helicopter purportedly to maintain power transmission lines.

Elder Bush makes brief stopover

FORMER United States President George H.W. Bush made a brief refueling stop in Manila early yesterday after wrapping up a tour of tsunami-ravaged nations aimed at raising reconstruction funds, US officials said.

Bush, father of the current US president, toured Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Maldives with another former US leader, Bill Clinton, to encourage more donations for rebuilding efforts across the Indian Ocean that are expected to take years.

"It was a refueling stop, there was no protocol attached to it," US Embassy spokeswoman Karen Kelley said of the brief stopover of Bush, who was on his way home.

The United States deployed a carrier battle group and about 20 helicopters for relief operations off the worst-hit Indonesian province of Banda Aceh's western coast—its biggest military operation in Southeast Asia since the Vietnam War. Washington has pledged $950 million (euro722 million) for relief efforts for tsunami-hit countries.

After touring a devastated village with Clinton near Banda Aceh on Sunday, Bush said: "I've never seen anything like this in my entire life. Ever."

He told local villagers who greeted them that, "You're going to be OK. A lot of people around the world want to help."

The mammoth 9.0-magnitude earthquake and the tsunami that it unleashed killed more than 165,000 people in 11 Indian Ocean nations. Most of the victims were in Indonesia's Aceh province, closest to the epicenter. Tens of thousands are missing and presumed dead. *AP*

Villar airs concern over 2005 budget

SEN. MANUEL Villar Jr. yesterday expressed concern that the House of Representatives may not be keen on passing the proposed 2005 national budget since it has yet to name its representatives to the bicameral conference committee which will reconcile the Senate and House versions of the budget.

If the bicameral committee fails to convene this week, or even today, Villar revealed that this was a signal that the House was not keen on passing the 2005 budget.

"I will see if until (today,) if we still do not have a bicameral conference committee meeting, I will assume that the House has a bad motive," he said yesterday.

But Villar expressed hope that this was not the case because it was not right for Congress to allow government to operate on a reenacted budget for the third consecutive year.

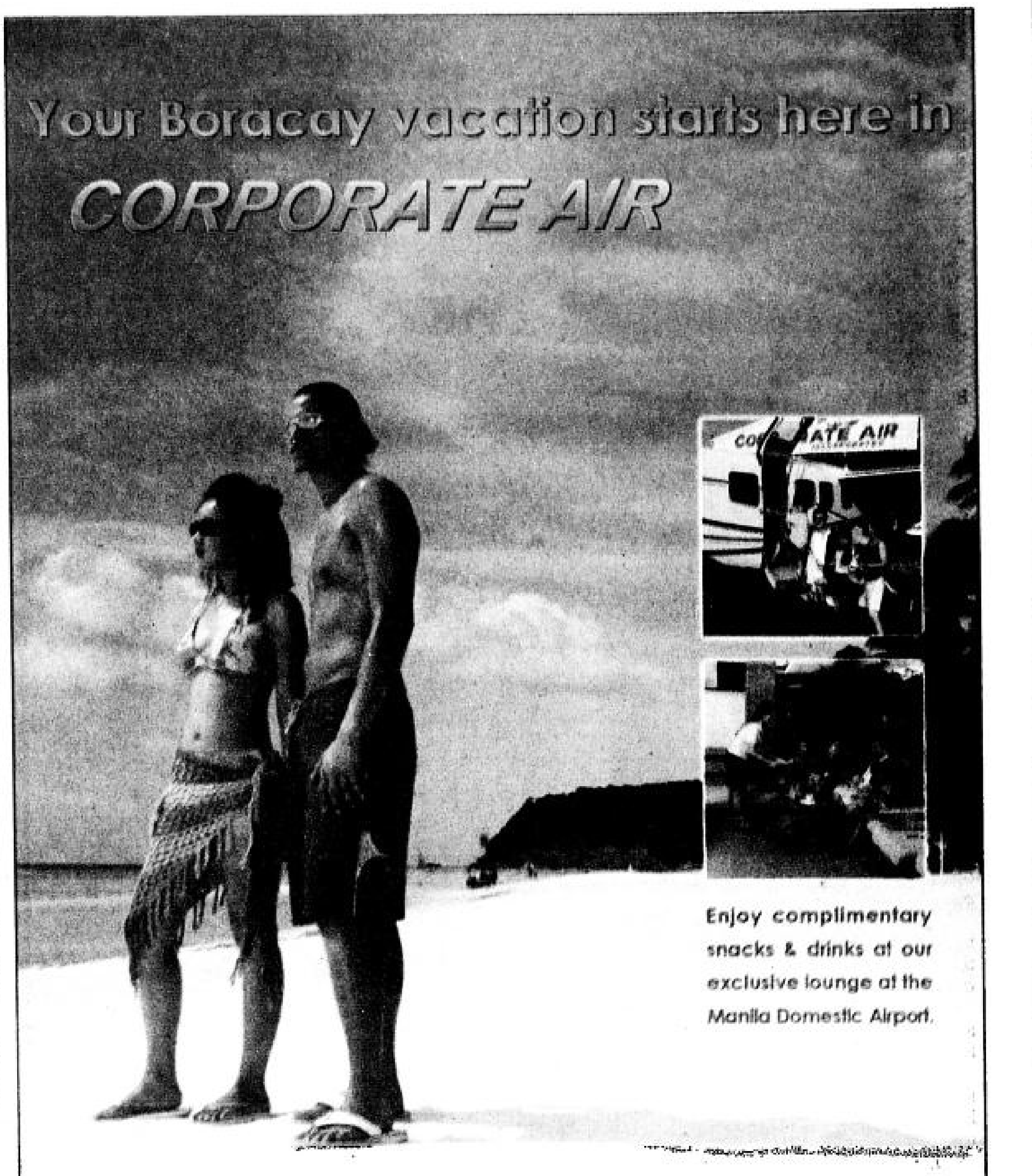
Villar, chair of the Senate finance committee, said he has been waiting since the start of the week for the House panel of the bicameral conference committee to inform them when they could all meet.

Two weeks after the Senate passed its version of the budget bill, the bicameral committee has yet to convene because the House still has to form its own panel, a development that Senators Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. earlier viewed with apprehension.

The Senate has already formed its seven-member panel for the budget reconciliation and was thus already ready to face their counterparts in the House.

Villar said the bicameral conference committee should at least meet once this week.

Since the start of the year, the government has been operating on a reenacted 2004 budget after Congress failed to approve the proposed 2005 budget. *Christine O. Avendaño*


Your Boracay vacation starts here in:
CORPORATE AIR
Enjoy complimentary snacks & drinks at our exclusive lounge at the Manila Domestic Airport.

FOR INQUIRIES AND RESERVATIONS CALL
LINAHEIM CORPORATE TRAVEL & TOURS AT
852-5503/04 OR (0917)888-8743.
EMAIL US AT corp_air@yahoo.com

LINAHEIM

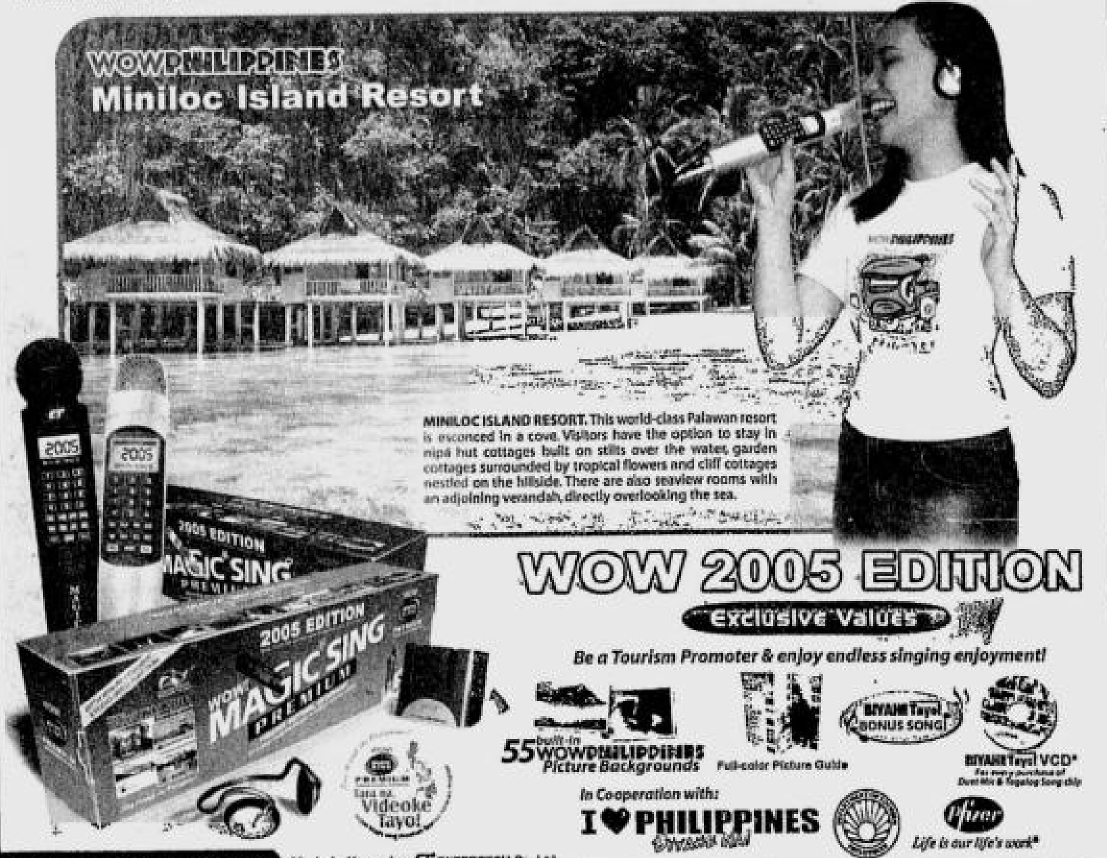
CORPORATE AIR INCORPORATED
Fly In Style

*Corporate Air is a charter service provided by Linaheim Corporate Travel & Tours

11th Annual Shape Up Philippines SUPER promo:
Sign up and get 3 FREE Butt-Firming Treatments!
For February 23, 2005 only. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0867, Series of 2005
Marie France Bodyline
Call 894-BODY now!
MAKATI ORTIGAS TIMOG BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL: 961-2981 CEBU • TEL: 233-7637

WOW! MAGIC SING PREMIUM
Videoke Anytime, Anywhere!

Sing through the Philippines!
The Only Videoke Microphone that Promotes Philippine Tourism
Proud to Promote Philippine Tourism!



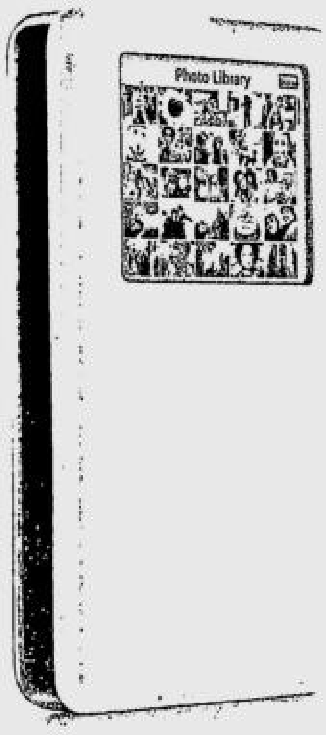
MINILOC ISLAND RESORT. This world-class Palawan resort is ensconced in a cove. Visitors have the option to stay in nipa hut cottages built on stilts over the water, garden cottages surrounded by tropical flowers and cliff cottages nestled on the hillside. There are also seaview rooms with an adjoining verandah, directly overlooking the sea.

WOW 2005 EDITION
Exclusive Values
Be a Tourism Promoter & enjoy endless singing enjoyment!
55 built-in WOWPHILIPPINES Picture Backgrounds
Full-color Picture Guide
BIYAHE Tayo! BONUS SONG
BIYAHE Tayo! VCD*
In Cooperation with: I ♥ PHILIPPINES
Life is our life's work®

AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE AT: Made in Korea by: ET ENTERTECH Co. Ltd.

Odyssey Music & Video · Automatic Centre · AstroVision · Abenson · Western · Music Video · SOCO Home & Office Center · Astroplus · AV Surfer · Avid Brands! · Tiongsan Harrison · Abenson · Abenson · filgifts.com · Sights & Sounds · Victronics Computers, Inc. · The Listening Room · Fairnsquare Emporium, Inc. · Welcome · Solid Electronics · Sansonic Marketing · Ohm's Trader · Hirosé Electronics · Santech · Pro Sound · Assurance Merchandising · Bethel · Hardware Exchange · Spectra · Nintendo · CSI · BHF · Guanzon · Solar Sales Center · Ever Appliance Center, Inc. · People's · Echo · Asian Home · Reverb · Eco-Tech · Cebu Appliance Center · BCS · Golden Bell · Better Living · MusicVision · Ma-an

Exclusively Distributed by: in-a-jiffy & G2K Corporation Tel No. 527 / 405 0178



There's more to pack between you

- Up to 25,000 photos[1]
- Up to 42 days of continuous voice recording[2]
- Office documents
- Games
- Phone and email contacts
- Calendar appointments

and your music.

Now, you can share snapshots with your friends and relatives without lugging bulky laptops or photo albums around. Poring through that organizer for your meetings won't be necessary either. With up to 60 GB of room for as many as 25,000 photos, ...or up to 42 days of continuous voice recording, the iPod can keep both your work and life mobile, within your pocket. All without putting a pause on your music.

[1] Photos has to be transfered via a computer using iTunes. Photo capacity is based in iPod-viewable photos transferred from iTunes. For more information about the iPod photo's full capabilities, please visit www.asia.apple.com/ipodphoto
[2] Requires the use of third party accessories.

Purchase Apple Care Protection Plan for your iPod and extend your hardware coverage (including battery) plus technical support for up to 2 full years.

Suggested Retail Price:
iPod Photo 40GB PhP 31,400 / 60GB PhP 38,500
AppleCare Protection Plan PhP 3,500

Authorized Dealers:
Metro Manila: ABC Computer Company · Acenet Computer · Ambassador · Anson's · Astroplus · Automatic Center · Avant · AV Surfer · Complink · Dataview · Electronics Boutique · Electroworld · LMK Commercial · Microstation · Mobile 1 · NT Computer Mart · palmOne PodCentral · Quality Cellular · Senco Link Technologies · Silicon Valley · The Outlet People · True Value · Villman · Ynzal Mktg. · 5th Ave. Cebu: AV Surfer · Electroworld · NG Khai · Sound Room · Thinking Tools
Davao: Chimes · Columbia Computer (Gensan) · Electroworld (SM) · RJ Homes (Victoria Plaza) · Quality Appliance Plaza

Authorized Distributor
MICROWAREHOUSE

SC tells gov't to comment on seniors' drug discount

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has ordered the government to comment on a petition by drugstore owners seeking to strike down a portion of the Expanded Senior Citizens Law that gave elderly people a 20-percent discount from commercial establishments.

In a resolution dated Jan. 25 but was released only yesterday, the high court gave the Departments of Justice, Health, Finance, Interior and Local Government, and Social Welfare and Development 10 days to comment on the petition.

Five drugstore owners said in a petition filed on Jan. 20 the privilege extended to senior citizens was forcing small drugstores to increase their prices because the government was reimbursing only 32 percent of the 20-percent discount they gave to senior citizens.

Victor Roque, counsel for the petitioners, said drugstore owners were forced to shoulder the discounts because the law "did not provide for a mechanism whereby drugstores will be justly compensated or reasonably reimbursed for whatever they advanced."

"Effectively, the law in question gave a privilege to the senior citizens, but did so at the expense of the drugstore owners and establishments," he added.

Under the law, drugstores were reimbursed through "tax deductions," but this scheme allowed them to refund from the Bureau of Internal Revenue only 32 percent of the 20-percent discount, Roque said.

This means that for every P1 discount, drugstore owners lose 68 centavos because only 32 centavos will be reimbursed by the government, according to Roque.

He cited the anti-hypertensive maintenance drug Norvasc, which petitioner Carlos Super Drug bought from distributors at P37.57 per tablet. The drugstore then sells it for P39.60 or a five-percent margin.

With the 20-percent discount, a drugstore sells Norvasc for P31.68, which translates to a loss of P5.89 per tablet. The store would then get only a refund of P2.53 per tablet and not the whole discount of P7.92.

Already, the law has forced drugstores to increase the prices of medicines, particularly branded drugs, to recoup their losses. This in turn, Roque said, had led to poor sales and had virtually rendered the discount scheme ineffective.

"Because these small drugstores are pushed to the wall, so to speak, their pricing strategy has effectively made the prices of medicines prohibitive," Roque said.

"Overall, the law seems to be a step backwards to the government's economic thrust of propping up the small and medium enterprises. Instead of giving SMEs a boost, the law cast a death spell on the small- to medium-sized drugstores, which are now facing the prospect of an inevitable closure because of heavy losses," he added.

With this situation, the law had also effectively denied the discount to 4.5 million of the country's five million senior citizens, Roque said.

"Of the five million senior citizens, only 500,000 are in Metro Manila. Regrettably, only half a million senior citizens who have easy access to Mercury Drug, the biggest drugstore chain in the country, will get to enjoy the 20-percent discount," he said.

Roque said Mercury Drug could afford to continue extending the privilege to senior citizens because of the huge discounts it gets for bulk orders.

"Until the legal issue on the discounts of medicines is properly resolved, that noble intention to help the senior citizens will never be fully realized, and the 20-percent discount on medicines will continue to be just a concept or perhaps, a successful political campaign strategy," Roque said.

Foreign tourists not heeding travel warnings, says Durano

By TJ Burgonio

NEGATIVE travel advisories on the Philippines will not affect tourist arrivals as foreigners do not follow them anyway, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said yesterday.

The United States, United Kingdom, Australia and Canada had advised their nationals to be "cautious" when traveling in the Philippines following the Feb. 14 bomb attacks, and to skip the south of the country altogether because of sporadic clashes between government troops and insurgents.

"Travelers nowadays are very sophisticated. They don't accept these travel advisories hook, line and sinker. They also do the research," Durano told reporters in an interview at the US Embassy.

Tourists from Japan, China and South Korea, the country's prime tourist markets, are "not sensitive" to these advisories, he said.

"That's why these countries did not even issue travel advisories," Durano added.

He noted that the areas cited in these advisories are off-limits to foreigners, and far from the tourist destinations being promoted by his department.

"All the natural calamities and the recent terror threats, these are all so far from tourist destinations. It's for this reason that foreign tourists continue to flock to our beach destinations," Durano said.

To counter such adverse advisories, the tourism department has stepped up its campaign to promote the country as a safe destination, the secretary said.

"So as long as there's information available, as long as we're visible in the market through our promotions, they can see that they are [problem areas] far from our tourist destinations," he said.

Figures on tourist arrivals after the Valentine's Day bombings that left eight dead and about 150 injured were not yet available.

As of the end of January, arrivals at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport alone grew by 9.97 percent. Of these arrivals, 60 percent originated from Japan, China and South Korea, according to officials.

Durano said he was also thankful to US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, who has pushed through with visits to the countryside, including Mindanao, despite the travel warnings from the US state department.

"That he's traveling around the country really serves [us well]. That despite all these travel advisories, the Philippines and its tourist destinations are safe for local and foreign tourists," he said.

Ricciardone said the Philippines remained a "fine place to visit."

"We advise the Americans that this is a fine place to visit. We take (Philippine National Police Director) General (Edgar) Aglipay's words to Filipinos: 'Know what you're doing, know where you go, pay attention,' and it's a fine place to be if you do that," he said.

"In fact, Americans are coming here. We do business here; it's a fine place for tourists to go," Ricciardone said.

The US Embassy chief of mission, Joseph Mussomeli, has clarified that the US state department warning on travel to the Philippines was a mere "public announcement" and not a travel advisory.

Next in Davide lectures: Congress power to probe

THE POWER of lawmakers to conduct investigations in aid of legislation and the constitutionally guaranteed right of the individual to privacy will be the subject of the second installment of the Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Distinguished Lecture Series on Monday at 3 p.m. at the Malcolm Theater of the University of the Philippines College of Law in Diliman, Quezon City.

Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno will deliver the lecture on "Legislative Investigations and the Rights to Privacy." The lecture is open to the public.

The lecture series, a joint project of the Supreme Court and the Philippine Judicial Academy (PhilJa), dovetails with the Chief Justice's vision to complete the reforms he has initiated in the judiciary before his mandatory retirement this year.

The reforms operationalized the vision of the Davide watch for an independent, effective and efficient judiciary worthy of public trust and confidence, and a legal profession that provides quality, ethical, accessible and cost-effective legal service that is willing to answer the call to public service.

The lecture series was launched on Feb. 9 with retired Supreme Court Justice Jose C. Vitug, now PhilJa senior professor, as resource speaker on "The Legal Profession in the Digital Age."

Correction

IN THE Feb. 21 issue, a Metro story—"2nd public attorney ambushed, wounded"—on Page A22 erroneously stated that police "detained nine men, three of them security guards who were in a house across from the crime scene." Of the nine detained, only the six civilians and not the three security guards were in the house across from the crime scene. The three guards were picked up from a nearby area.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

Red Cross airs plea for Jolo civilians

GENEVA—The international Red Cross on Monday urged government soldiers and rebels in Jolo to respect the basic humanitarian rules of warfare, saying civilians have suffered too often from the conflict.

"The recent fighting—the most intense witnessed for some time—began in Sulu on Feb. 7," the International Committee of the Red Cross said in a statement. "It has led to significant loss of life on both sides and to the displacement of an estimated 27,600 civilians."

The ICRC stressed that "attacks directed against civilians and acts of violence aimed at spreading terror among the civilian population are prohibited" under the Geneva Conventions. AP

More RP women try suicide, but men are more successful in their attempt

By Nikko Dizon

MORE Filipino women try to commit suicide but the men are more successful in their attempts, a psychiatrist said yesterday.

The trend is mainly attributed to the lethality of the different methods that men and women use, Dr. Genuina C. Ranoy, a psychiatric consultant at the St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) and at the Children's Welfare Specialist Group of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), said in a press conference.

Ranoy said that while women opt to take an overdose of medicine or cut their wrists, the men would kill themselves with a gun, through strangulation, by jumping off buildings, or by plunging into vehicular accidents.

"Normally, when the woman feels the pain on her wrist, she would stop the attempt," Ranoy explained.

However, in the study she conducted from 1996 to 2000 as a consultant in another private hospital which included more than 130 cases of suicide attempts, the men used drug overdose as a method contrary to the universally accepted mode.

Ranoy attributed this to the fact that the private hospital catered to special clients, or those in the higher economic strata.

US envoy not leaving anytime soon

By TJ Burgonio

RICCIARDONE

US AMBASSADOR Francis Ricciardone has grown to love Manila so much he is not eager to pack his bags and leave "anytime soon."

Ricciardone yesterday laughed off speculations that his tour of duty was about to end following reports that the US state department had nominated Cameron R. Hume as the next ambassador to the Philippines.

"I hope not. I love the Philippines. I wish there's such a thing as ambassador for life to the Philippines. We don't have that job in my country," he said when asked by reporters at the US Embassy in Manila about his impending departure.

Ricciardone, named envoy to Manila in February 2002 and now on his fourth year of duty, stressed that a slew of tasks lay ahead of him and needed to be accomplished.

"I started my fourth year in this country yesterday. I want to stay as long as I can ... I'm only concentrating on this job. There's so much to do. I don't expect I'll be leaving anytime immediately," he said.

The ambassador led embassy staff, diplomats, Senators Richard Gordon and Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, Mayor Lito Atienza and other officials in simple rites marking the 60th anniversary of the Flag-Raising at the American Embassy.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur raised the American flag again on the grounds of the American High Commission in Manila, where the embassy now stands, even as fierce fighting between American and Japanese forces continued to rage on Feb. 21, 1945.

Hume, US envoy to South Africa, is being groomed by the state department to succeed Ricciardone. The Senate foreign relations committee, however, has yet to schedule his confirmation hearing, according to reports.

Even while commenting on the state department's public announcement urging its nationals to exercise caution while staying here, Ricciardone continued to heap praises on the Philippines, saying "it's a fine place to visit" for American tourists.

"We advise Americans that this is a fine place to visit. We take General (Edgar) Aglipay's words to Filipinos: 'Know what you're doing, know where you go, pay attention' and it's a fine place to be if you do that," he said.

"That's why I bring our families here ... We all bring our families here. We love this place," he added.

Echoing Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli, the ambassador insisted that the state department issued a public announcement, not a travel advisory as had been reported in the local papers.

"Go to our website and read what our Department of State is saying. It's nothing more than a flat portrayal of the facts here," he said. "In fact, Americans are coming here. We do business, it's a fine place for tourists to go."

Church, NGO groups give support to Pinoys in Korea

THE WELFARE and interest of Filipinos in Korea received a boost yesterday as NGO (non-government organization) and church sectors and Philippine officials met in Seoul and agreed to work more closely and improve the embassy's information on Filipinos living in Korea.

Leaders of the Philippine Women's Association in Korea (Philwak) and Family Federation for World Peace and Unification said they paid a call on Philippine Ambassador Aladin Villacorte to update him on their groups' activities and set up lines of communication.

Kim Young Jun and Kwak Shin Sook, directors of the Family Federation's Blessed Family Department (BFD), told the ambassador Filipino Unificationists in Korea are happily married and that the marriages have a high 90-percent success rate. This is well above the norm for marriages in Korea and elsewhere.

It's more than just a credit card.

It's giving you cash back when you spend on anything and everything.

CASH BACK
VISA

The New Citibank Cash Back Card

It's the card that gives you up to 2.5%* cash back on all your purchases every month.

Plus, enjoy a bonus of 3%** cash back on dining expenses, utility bills and tuition fees on top of your regular cash back from January 3 to June 30, 2005.

Cash Back is automatically credited on your statement.

Apply now and enjoy a first year annual fee waiver.***
Call 423-3000 or log on to www.citibank.com.ph

3%** BONUS cash back on dining, utility and tuition expenses

* Keep on using your Cash Back Card and you can get from 0.5% to 2.5% cash back every month. See flyers for details.

** 3% BONUS Cash Back rate is a promotional offer for the launch period of January 3 to June 30, 2005 only. The 3% BONUS cash back is in addition to the standard Cash Back rate of 0.5% to 2.5% for regular transactions. 3% BONUS cash back for transactions within the period of January 3 to March 31, 2005 will be credited to your billing statement in May 2005. 3% BONUS cash back for transactions within the period of April 1 to June 30, 2005 will be credited to your billing statement in August 2005.

*** The waiver on the First Year Annual Fee only applies to Principal Cardholders that do not have an existing Citibank Credit Card.

citibank

Let the numbers speak !

19.07%

*Full year Return from Jan. 1 to Dec. 29, 2004

The Sun Life Prosperity Balanced Fund outperformed all other balanced funds in 2004 with a 19.07%* full year return.

There's a Sun Life Prosperity Fund to suit the taste of every type of investor. Check them out here:

PROSPERITY FUND	FUND COMPONENT	RISK PROFILE	RETURNS* 2004 Jan. 1 - Dec. 29	[illegible]	[illegible]
BOND	Purely Fixed Income	Risk Averse	7.85%	8.40%	16.91%
BALANCED	Equities & Fixed Income	Risk Tolerant	19.07%	31.50%	56.58%
PHILIPPINE EQUITY	Mostly Equities	Risk Taker	20.16%	39.84%	68.03%

Managed and distributed by:
Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc.
10/F Tower II, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines
E-mail: sunlink@sunlife.com
Visit: www.sunlifefunds.com

Investing made easy.

Invest in a Sun Life Prosperity Fund today.
Call your Mutual Fund Representative at [illegible]

Invest wisely. Important information about the Sun Life Prosperity Funds is contained in their respective prospectuses. Please obtain copies from your Sun Life Mutual Fund representative and read them carefully before investing. Share values, yields, and investment returns will fluctuate. Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc. is a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies.

Sun Life Financial

Crowds hauled to attend Edsa 2005 rites

By Fe Zamora

CROWDS hauled by trucks from as far as Gapan, Nueva Ecija, dominated the first day of the 19th year celebration of the 1986 People Power at Edsa.

Noticeably missing in the crowd yesterday were former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, former AFP vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and then businessman Butz Aquino, who made history on Feb. 22, 1986.

The quadrangle fronting the People Power monument just outside Camp Aguinaldo was bedecked with balloons, flags and streamers with the face and name of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A 5 meter by 7 meter tarpaulin of the President's smiling face was set up in front of the stage which made the real Ms Arroyo appear like a dwarf.

Chartered buses and jeepneys lined Edsa from the People Power monument all the way to Santolan Road causing horrendous traffic.

Aling Susan, 51, said she and her neighbors from Pasay were herded to Edsa at 11 am. "They promised to give us money," she said. But at 4 p.m., they were told to go home on their own.

A choral group of college students from Caloocan City, however, were assured of round-trip transportation. Most of them had not been born in 1986. What they know of the People Power uprising was based mainly on what they've heard.

"It's the episode of history when the Filipinos regained their freedom from oppression, corruption and martial law," they said, almost in unison.

Their leader, Rodel Paguirigan, who is also the secretary general of Kaisang Bayan, said they did not go to Edsa to celebrate "blindly."

"We are also observing how this administration will perform, particularly in its campaign against graft and corruption," Paguirigan told the INQUIRER.

The militant Bayan said they were not impressed by the administration's antigraft and corruption rally marking the 19th year of Edsa 1.

"It's like they're just going through the motions of commemorating Edsa. The chosen theme is so dubious since the Arroyo administration is hardly known for fighting graft and corruption. The administration itself has been mired in allegations of graft and corruption and misrule," Bayan secretary general Renato M. Reyes Jr. said in a statement.

2 portraits of Roldan: Sinner or saint

From page A1

time with his family so he is well loved by his children," Panelo said in an interview.

A different portrait

"He is also loved by his wife. [She loves Dennis so much that] she cries when we talk [about his case]," he added.

The Philippine National Police intelligence chief, Director Robert Delfin, drew a different picture.

Delfin said purported huge losses from different forms of gambling might have pushed Roldan to strike out on another path.

"It appears that he got hooked [on] gambling, particularly cockfighting, betting as much as P200,000," Delfin told the INQUIRER, citing information he said he and his men had so far gathered in their investigation.

SUSPECT Roldan: So deep in debt that he had to resort to illegal activities? JOAN BONDOC

'Suzette's idea'

That amount was actually "too small" compared to the heavy losses Roldan allegedly incurred in casinos and basketball game-fixing, according to a source instrumental in Roldan's arrest on Saturday.

His losses had supposedly amounted to some P50 million, the source claimed, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"He was so desperate," the source told the INQUIRER.

This was when Suzette See Wang, his purported girlfriend, allegedly brought up the idea of kidnapping the 3-year-old son of her close friend.

Girlfriend behind kidnap

Police said the kidnap gang, smashed on Saturday when the boy was rescued, had initially demanded P250 million from the boy's family but lowered the amount later to P3 million.

"It was Suzette who lured Dennis Roldan to kidnapping," Delfin alleged.

Anticrime advocate Teresita Ang-See said Wang was "very crucial" in Roldan's supposed kidnap-for-ransom activity.

"There's no other way he would know about it [the boy's family being moneyed] except from Suzette," she said. "All information came from her."

Evidence against Roldan

Wang , described by Delfin as the "other mastermind" in the abduction of the boy, is now the subject of a police manhunt.

2 other kidnap cases

Ang-See said Roldan's name had also cropped up in at least two kidnapping cases. But he was never investigated or charged in either case, she said.

Since nothing came out of those two investigations, Delfin said police considered the Feb. 9 kidnapping as Roldan's "first venture" in the lucrative criminal activity.

Ang-See said authorities had sufficient witnesses to pin down the former actor, as well as evidence that could "stand in court."

"Our proof is 100 percent," said Ang-See, founder of the Movement for the Restoration of Peace and Order, an anticrime watchdog with a network of informants and composed of relatives of former kidnap victims.

Backup car

She claimed police had witnesses present when the kidnappers seized the boy outside his nursery school in Ortigas.

During the abduction, Ang-See alleged, Roldan and Wang were on board a vehicle that served as a back-up to the Honda CRV, into which the boy was initially dragged after he was abducted.

"Later on, the kidnappers transferred the boy to Roldan's car," she alleged. "He was really involved. The boy saw him and Suzette."

Just friends, not lovers

Panelo denied that Wang was the former lawmaker's lover.

"They were close friends. But they went into different fields of business in November," Panelo said.

Panelo said Roldan was not hard up as his detractors tried to portray him to be, and that he was not desperate.

"He engaged in the buy and sell of cars and construction although he is no longer active in these businesses," Panelo said.

"Construction is a lucrative business and he only left it because the times have not been conducive [to such an enterprise]," the lawyer added.

Subpoenas out

Regardless of who the man is behind the handsome face, the Department of Justice has ordered Roldan and his co-accused to answer the kidnapping charges against them.

State Prosecutor Pablo Formaran III said the DOJ had issued subpoenas against Roldan, Wang, and six co-respondents to file their counter-affidavits.

The DOJ has scheduled a pre-trial hearing for March 4. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

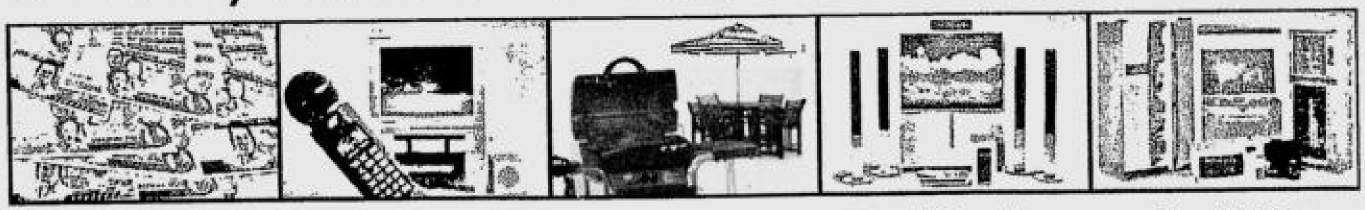
RCBC
RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION
RCBC
Savings Bank

DRIVEN PROMO

Honda Jazz 1.3 S MT
Honda City 1.5 V MT
Honda Civic VTi MT
Isuzu D-Max 4x2 AT
TROOPER
Honda CRV 4x2 AT
Grand Prize: Isuzu Trooper UBR AT

*Units shown may vary from actual units.

It's your chance to win – while you save and earn!
No entry forms to fill out! No texting of entries!



A total of P4.6 Million cash to be given away!
Four (4) Entertainment Showcases worth P100,000 each.
Four (4) Outdoor Showcases worth P100,000 each.
Four (4) Home Theater Showcases worth P150,000 each.
Four (4) Kitchen Showcases worth P150,000 each.

How to join:

1. The promo is automatically open to all existing and new Individual depositors of RCBC and RCBC Savings Bank's regular rate (1% p.a.) or non-interest earning savings/checking accounts, except for SWAT products. Individual investors of Unit Investment Trust Funds (UITF) with investments within promo period are also included. The promo is open to Peso and US Dollar denominations.
2. To qualify, the following basic criteria must be met each promo month:
   - Deposit account must be active and have at least P10,000 or US$1,000monthly Average Daily Balance (ADB).
   - UITF investment must have at least P25,000 or US$2,000 outstanding placement.
3. For Deposits: Qualified deposit accounts will receive one (1) raffle number for every P2,000 or US$200.
4. For UITF: One raffle entry is to be given for every P5,000 or US$500 new or additional investment.
5. Depositors & UITF investors may check their raffle entries at the RCBC or RCBC Savings Bank Business Center of their account.
6. Raffle draws are divided into Luzon, Metro Manila, Visayas, and Mindanao. National draw winners will be drawn from a combined pool of the four regions. There will be six (6) monthly draws which will start on March, 2005 and will last until August, 2005. Grand Draw will be on September 23, 2005.
7. All raffle numbers generated from February 4, 2005 to August 31, 2005 are included in the Grand Draw. Raffle draw winners will be electronically drawn. All draws will be held at 4:00 p.m., at the RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City 0727. Any change in time and venue will have notification at branches of RCBC and RCBC Savings Bank.
8. All prizes are tax-paid. All prizes are non-transferable and are not convertible to cash.
9. All employees of RCBC and RCBC Savings Bank, their subsidiaries and advertising/promotions agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from this promo.
10. Winners will be notified through registered mail sent to the address indicated on their customer information file; and their names published in a leading newspaper.
11. Winners must agree to have their names, addresses, and photos included in winners advertisements and other related materials.

For more details, get promo leaflet at the branch nearest you. Or call 894-9577.

RCBC
RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION
A YGC Member

RCBC
Savings Bank
A YGC Member

MEMBER: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor PhP 250,000.

BancNet

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0559 Series of 2005

Trust placements are not covered by PDIC. Investor's safeguards are governed by Monetary Board Resolution Regulation 1865 (BSP Regulation on Trust) Due to the nature of investment potential yield cannot be guaranteed

Malayan Insurance Co., Inc. • RCBC • Grepalife • Lifetime Plans, Inc. • House of Investments, Inc. • Bankard, Inc. • AY Foundation, Inc. • Honda Cars Quezon City, Manila, Kalookan • Isuzu Manila • EEI Corporation • Mapua Institute of Technology and 21 other companies as one to better serve our customers.
www.ygc.com.ph

YGC Yuchengco Group of Companies
TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE FOR YOU.

Ramboys' book to tell what …

From page A1

Honasan.

He said the book would be RAM's "offering to the next generation of Filipinos" so "they can make and form their own conclusions about Edsa I without any historical distortions and biases."

A few brave men

Honasan was candid enough to admit that several quarters continued to doubt RAM's role in Edsa 1.

"They came out with history books (used) in public schools branding us as criminals. My children asked me if I'm a criminal and I said: 'Do I look like a criminal?' So it's just proper for us to write a book that will tell our children and grandchildren, and the next generation of Filipino leaders, what really happened," said Honasan.

But how will the book treat former President Corazon Aquino—the recognized icon of Edsa I?

Honasan had only this to say: "It was a time of darkness. But a few brave soldiers jumped into the precipice. We didn't know if we would land on anything, or if we would die. We were just looking for a light that would bring about change."

He recalled that he, then lieutenant colonel in the Army, and soldiers belonging to RAM, then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and then Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos had withdrawn their support from strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Did not see Cory

"We did not go to Cebu where Cory was, neither did we go to Malacañang where Marcos was. We simply withdrew our support from the administration and stayed in the middle—in Camps Crame and Aguinaldo," said Honasan.

He said Aquino was in Cebu at the height of the revolution.

"I never saw her in Edsa. I saw Ramos, Enrile. I saw a sea of nameless people who up to now choose to remain anonymous. All they wanted was change for the better," he said.

"When we landed, there was a flickering light. Then everyone followed suit because there was this light. Many started to claim credit. We (RAM) did not make any noise so long as there was change and reform," he added.

After that, RAM soldiers quietly returned to their original assignments "without asking for promotions and juicy assignments. We refused them categorically, hoping that the changes the Filipino people had dreamed of would come to pass."

Honasan described Edsa I as not "purely" against Marcos.

In the middle

"That's the easiest thing to do. But for you to say 'I'm for change, I'm for good governance,' that's a more solid foundation for reforms," he said, lamenting that since 1986, RAM had been attacked from all sides.

"All of a sudden, they started distorting history. Each one was trying to outdo the other in grabbing credit," said Honasan, who became a renegade soldier during the Aquino administration and led seven failed coup attempts.

He said the difference between Edsa I and II lay in the role played by the military.

"The defining character of '86 was that the military stayed in the middle. In Edsa II, the military went to Robinsons Galleria (where the Edsa Shrine is situated)," said Honasan.

But the message now, he said, was one of unity.

Dreams

"I call for unity. As a former legislator, I'm trying to help organize a strong legal opposition. Let's generate bipartisan support or even multi-partisan support for worthy programs to respond to the dreams of Edsa 1," he stressed, "the valid and noble aspirations that we articulated so clearly in Edsa 1."

Now, what? Erap wants to build library in Tanay

From page A1

dential and library building" on his 15-hectare vacation estate.

"What will he ask for next?" wondered a special prosecutor.

In a comment submitted to the Sandiganbayan, acting Deputy Special Prosecutor Humphrey T. Monteroso said that if Jacky Ejercito-Lopez were allowed to build a house and library at the Estrada property in Tanay, Rizal, it would be like granting the former president his original bid for house arrest in San Juan.

"Lest we forget, Estrada is a detention prisoner enjoying privileges that are unavailable to all other detention prisoners … This is simply house arrest—but in reverse," he said.

Thus, he asked the court to deny the request "to build a residence and library at the Tanay property while accused Estrada is confined thereat."

Estrada, who is facing plunder and perjury charges, was brought from Camp Capinpin to the rest house last year with the full support of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who told the INQUIRER in a dinner that she wanted the fallen leader treated with dignity.

But Monteroso said such "custodial arrangement" not only violated the "equal protection" right of all prisoners, it also presented security problems for Estrada and his guards.

He explained that the "Tanay rest house was never built as, or intended to be, a detention facility. Hence, adequacy of security is a continuing concern."

Monteroso also pointed out "the chaos, the disorder" which would result from the entry of construction workers or "persons posing as such," and the hauling of materials and equipment to and from the Estrada rest house.

"Easily, the security personnel can be overwhelmed, even overpowered," he said, adding that if Estrada agreed to return to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center or Camp Capinpin, then "they can build whatever they want at the Tanay property."

'Very biased' reporting

Also yesterday, Estrada called up the INQUIRER, complaining about its alleged "very biased" reporting on the testimony of Danilo Reyes, an associate professor of the University of the Philippines and acting treasurer of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation (EMYF).

Reyes testified that Estrada's lawyer Edward Serapio, who was also a foundation board member, kept secret the identities of donors who donated P200 million in 2000, which backed the suspicions of prosecutors that the EMYF was indeed used to launder "jueteng" money.

Estrada denied this, saying that the foundation was created for a noble purpose, such as the education of bright and deserving Muslim scholars.

"Everything was done in good faith," he said, adding that the foundation's bylaws even state that should the foundation be dissolved, its funds will go to the government or other legitimate foundations.

GMA urges Filipinos to fight graft in gov't

From page A1

freedom from corruption," said Ms Arroyo, who delivered her speech entirely in Filipino.

Ms Arroyo said a new revolution was necessary to lick the scourge of graft and corruption.

"During Edsa I, we fought against the dictatorship and corruption. At Edsa Dos, the dictatorship is gone but we fought against corruption. Now (in celebrating the anniversary of) Edsa (in 2005), let us strengthen our unity and our leadership to fight and defeat corruption," she said.

Charge illegal loggers

The President vowed to use the powers of the presidency to go after corrupt officials.

"I will use the full weight of the presidency to charge illegal loggers, nullify transactions of corrupt companies with the government, remove unconscionable officials and restore the honorable and honest service of our soldiers and officers of the Armed Forces who are laying down their lives for our country," Ms Arroyo said.

She said the culture of corruption had been impeding progress. But the lifestyle checks have led to the filing of cases against many corrupt officials, according to the President.

"The government will move to seize their illegal wealth even before they are tried and sentenced," Ms Arroyo said.

She called on Congress, the private sector and nongovernment organizations to join her in her crusade.

Uphold power of people

"If we uphold the power of the people, we will realize the triumph of Edsa," she said.

"Let us ensure that the spirit of Edsa will never die, etched forever in history and the hearts of every Filipino. Let us fight with all our might the scourge of graft that spawns poverty and engulfs those hungry for power. The march of Edsa is not yet over," she said.

Ms Arroyo said that to renew hope in the people and bring about change, her administration would exercise political will to generate jobs, boost the coffers of government, finance pro-poor programs, attract foreign investments and capital, eradicate kidnapping, and punish illegal logging.

Busloads of employees

The President cancelled a meeting with Cabinet officials and legislators to attend the "anti-corruption rally" at the Edsa Shrine while busloads of Malacañang employees were sent to join other government employees mobilized for the affair.

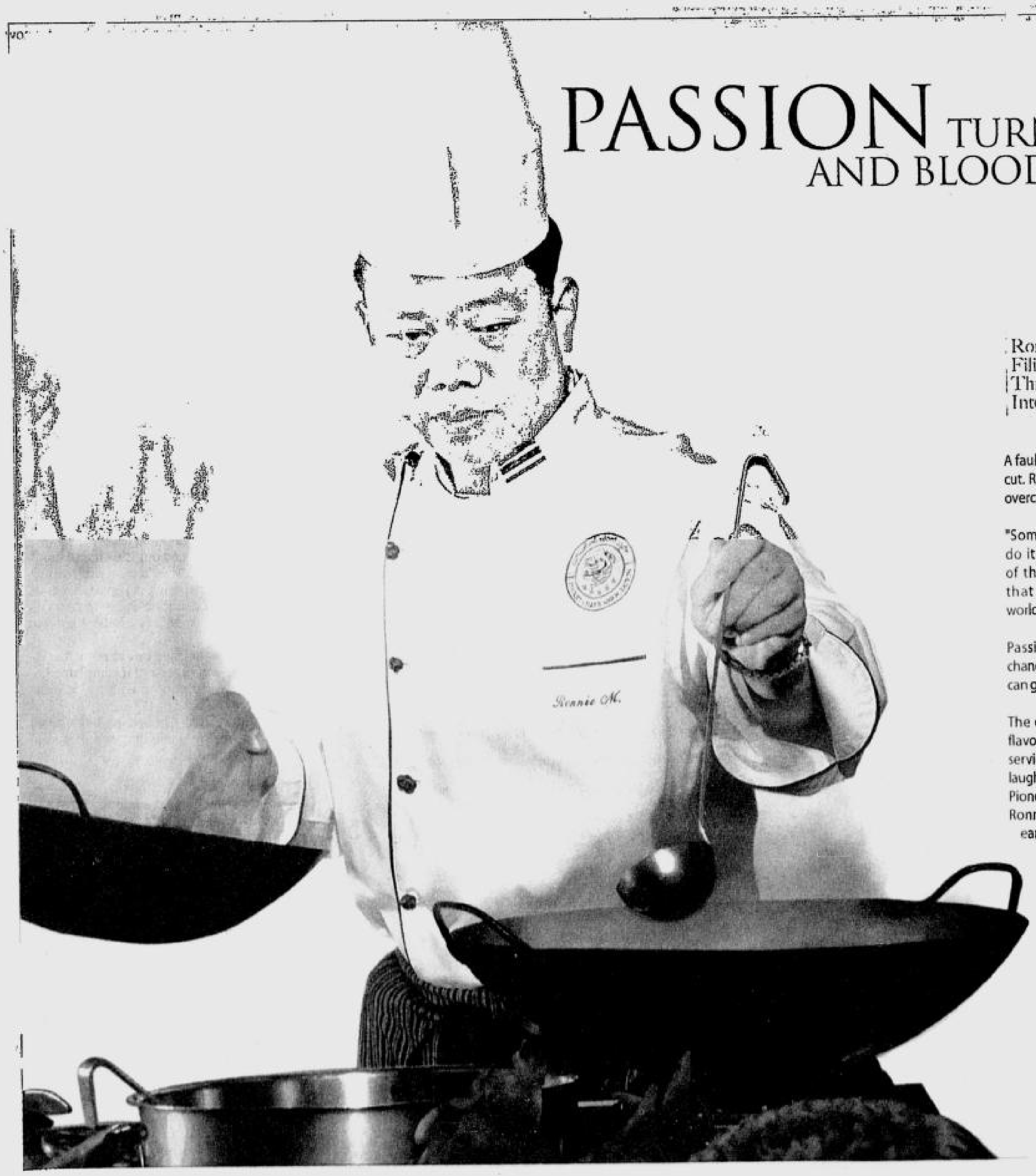
Malacañang's Office of External Affairs asked different government agencies to send their employees to attend the rally at the site of the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution.

The anticorruption rally was organized as one of the "highlights" of the celebration of the 19th anniversary of the peaceful uprising that toppled the Marcos dictatorship.

Ms Arroyo, who replaced President Joseph Estrada during the second Edsa people power in 2001, has declared Feb. 25, Friday, a special national holiday to commemorate Edsa I.

Presidential Adviser on External Affairs Ed Pamintuan reportedly sent a letter to different government offices on Feb. 15, asking for some 30,000 warm bodies to turn up at the rally where Ms Arroyo was to deliver a speech. *(See story on Page A7.)*

By noon, at least three Office of the President buses and four coasters were seen loading Malacañang employees in front of Mabini Hall in Malacañang to be brought to the rally.



PASSION TURNS FIRE, STEEL AND BLOOD INTO GOLD.

Ronnie Macuja
Filipino, Chef
Three-time gold medalist,
International Salon Culinaire, Thailand

A faulty gas tank. A finger bleeding from a deep knife cut. Racial bias. Just three of the things Ronnie Macuja's overcome to get to where he is today.

"Some people will look at you and think you can't do it. But I said to myself: One day I will be one of them." His casual manner masks the drive that propelled him to executive chef – the culinary world's version of a CEO – before he even turned 40.

Passion often brings risk. "I've moved countries, changed jobs to meet my goals. In the kitchen, anything can go wrong. So in other aspects, I keep things simple."

The chef was impressed by Pioneer's own blend of flavors: straight talk, warmed with truly personalized service. "Some companies won't even insure chefs," he laughs. Yet sharing his passion for overcoming obstacles, Pioneer created custom coverage to cover not just Chef Ronnie, but his career: a dollar product to shield his earnings, insurance for his precious personal set of knives, even an incentive that rewards him for future gold medals.

"It's that thorough, yet that simple. That's why with Pioneer, I get it," beams Chef Ronnie.

PIONEER
You get it.
+63 2 812 7777
www.pioneer.com.ph

'They asked if they could pray [in my house]'

By Luige A. del Puerto

WEEKS before the Valentine's Day bombing of a passenger bus in Makati, two men living in a poor Mandaluyong community asked a woman neighbor if they could use a room in her house to pray.

They told her their room was locked and they did not have the key. She let them in.

"They asked if they could pray [in my house]. They looked decent," *sari-sari* store owner 'Nay Vina told the *Inquirer*, recounting her brief encounter with the pair.

Late on Monday and yesterday, the country's Anti-Terrorism Task Force swooped down on the community and nabbed the two men.

Little did 'Nay Vina realize that the two men who used her house to hold their prayers were the alleged bombers, who killed four people and wounded more than 100 others in the Feb. 14 attack.

'Nay Vina had just arrived from the market when she saw her neighborhood crawling with security agents.

"We were surprised to see so many armed men here," she said.

Cramped room

Residents poured out of their homes to gawk at the task force members who had surrounded the area.

The room the suspects had used as safe house measured only 2x3 meters, according to residents.

Media people were not allowed to get inside. Soon after bomb experts had combed it, task force members directed barangay officers to board up the place.

A bomb expert showed the INQUIRER a copy of the raiding team's haul.

Fruits of the raid

They included a hand grenade, three boxes of blasting caps, five boxes of 45 mm ammunition, 52 feet of time fuse, two small clocks, several small batteries, and suspected C-4 contained in two toothpaste tubes, a film container, and a hair oil plastic bottle.

The raiders also recovered several SIM packs, and a cell phone charger, according to officers on the ground.

The list also included two maps, one of the Philippines and the other of Metro Manila, and two "books of Islam," one officer said.

Tom and Ken

The room the two men rented could only be reached through narrow, winding paths that seemed like veins connected to a heart. The area had several exit points.

A neighbor said the two men seemed to be like people who preferred to mind their own business.

They were known in the area as "Tom" and "Ken."

Liked banana cue

The taller of the suspects frequently left the house. His companion mostly stayed inside the room, according to this neighbor.

"They would come here almost every day to buy banana cue," the neighbor said.

A barangay watchman told the INQUIRER that the two rented the house late last year.

"They looked decent, they never bothered anyone. They mostly kept to themselves," said the sari-sari store owner.

2 bombing suspects fall

From page A1

ment of the JI here since the two were their trainees," Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan told reporters.

A Muslim convert

Gamal Baharan, alias Tapay, and Angelo Trinidad, alias Abu Khalil Trinidad, 26, a Muslim convert, were arrested in separate operations in Mandaluyong City and San Juan.

Metro Manila police chief Director Avelino Razon said Baharan was nabbed on Monday at around 11:45 p.m. in front of a 7-11 convenience store at the corner of Boni Avenue and Aglipay Street in Mandaluyong.

Trinidad was arrested yesterday at around 4:30 a.m. along N. Domingo Street in San Juan.

The military gave a different version. It said the two were arrested in a squatters area in Mandaluyong.

Authorities recovered half a pound of C4 plastic explosives inside toothpaste tubes and film canisters, a .45 cal. pistol and ammunition from the suspects' safehouse along Aglipay Street, Razon said.

Bus conductor

The masked informant, identified by officials as the conductor of the bombed RRCG bus, had told investigators the pair were the two people who got off from the bus before it exploded.

The witness, wearing a baseball cap, said Trinidad sat behind the driver while Baharan took a seat at the rear.

The bus conductor was himself injured in the right leg as a result of the blast.

Bombers' movements

Adan said the suspects boarded the bus at the intersection of Shaw Boulevard and Edsa in Mandaluyong City.

"They placed the bomb in a makeshift box that they kept inside a backpack that Khalil carried and left at the back of the bus," Adan said.

He said the two, after getting off the bus at the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Edsa, boarded another bus for Leveriza.

Shortly after, Trinidad used his cell phone to detonate the bomb, Adan said.

Investigation also revealed that the suspects used two kilos of TNT which they had received from a certain Maidan, alias Negro, in a gasoline station in Taguig City.

"Khalil assembled the bomb with wires and a Nokia 6210 cell phone that was used as a triggering device," Adan said.

Authorities were still hunting Maidan, who had slipped out of a police dragnet.

The investigation of the two suspects also revealed that they were ordered by Abu Sayyaf commander Jainal Sali, alias Abu Solaiman, to carry out the bombing.

A man who identified himself as Solaiman had gone on radio after the attacks to claim Abu Sayyaf responsibility for the bombings in Makati, Davao and General Santos.

A total of eight people were killed and more than 150 others wounded in the bombings.

Adan said the suspects had undergone training in demolition and explosives from a Jemaah Islamiyah operative, identified only as a certain Jackie or Zaky, in Mt. Kararo in Lanao del Sur.

Adan said that Baharan left his native Basilan for Zamboanga City in 2000 after being implicated in the April 2000 Sipadan hostage crisis in Jolo.

Meeting with Janjalani

While in Zamboanga City, Baharan first met Solaiman. Some time in 2004, Baharan was told by Solaiman to go to Butig, Lanao del Sur, where he met ASG leader Khadaffy Janjalani, Solaiman, Trinidad and Jackie, Adan said.

By the military's account, the two suspects arrived in Manila in September last year.

Soon after, Solaiman sent P19,000 to a Landbank ATM account owned by Baharan for their expenses. In February, the two were ordered to carry out the bombing, Adan said.

Also bombed Gen San?

"Intelligence reports that have been gathered so far revealed that the group of Janjalani, Abu Solaiman and Jackie was also responsible for the bombing of the bus terminal in Davao City on the same day," Adan said.

"[They] could have perpetrated the same terrorist attack in General Santos City."

Razon said the military and police were keeping a watch on two other suspects based on information provided by Francisco.

He also said that one Jordan Velasco was taken into custody on Sunday based on Francisco's information. But Velasco, a resident of Caloocan City, was released the following day when the bus conductor failed to point him out as one of the passengers.

The Valentine's Day bombings occurred nearly a year after a bomb exploded inside SuperFerry 14 off Manila Bay, killing more than 100 people.

After that bombing, security forces launched a manhunt for other Abu Sayyaf bombers whom they said had sneaked into Metro Manila.

Razon said that information leading to the arrest of the two suspects was independent from that provided by a police witness named "Francisco."

Coordinated effort

A senior police intelligence official said the Feb. 14 bombings were a "coordinated effort" involving the Jemaah Islamiyah, Abu Sayyaf, and the "Misuari Breakaway Group."

These groups carried out the plan to bomb key targets in Metro Manila following the military's recent offensive in the Liguasan marsh, a Moro Islamic Liberation Front territory in Mindanao, which is believed to be a hideout of JI terrorists.

"The plan was hatched last year and the incident in Liguasan expedited the implementation of the terrorist plot," the official told the INQUIRER.

The military had claimed to have killed some 40 terrorists, including two JI operatives, during the attack.

Last straw

The "last straw" was the military offensive against followers of jailed Moro National Liberation Front leader Nur Misuari, the official said.

"These were all the handiwork of the Abu Sayyaf, Misuari's men and the JI which coordinated the whole effort," the official said.

GMA happy

President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed elation over the arrest of the two suspected bombers.

"Of course, the President is happy that in just one week we have already accounted for and caught the bombers," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

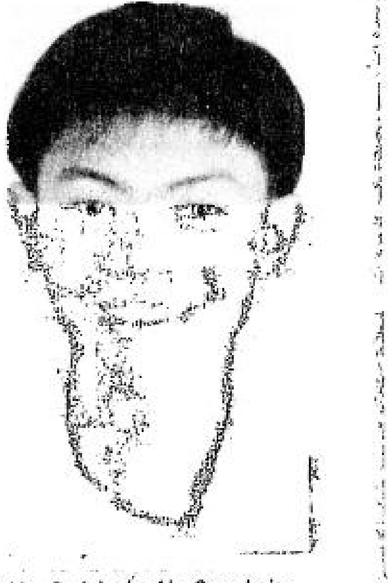
"This only shows that there is unity among the Filipinos because the information they provided [helped the intelligence community to identify] who they are and where they are," Ermita said. "That is why they were apprehended so quickly." *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

We Rule!

Gabrielle Marie G. Maranon of St. Scholastica's Academy San Fernando Pampanga. Winner of Category 1: Poetry Writing for "What I Like Best in School"

Julien Dió of Miriam College, Quezon City. Winner of Category 2: Poetry Writing for "The Art Gallery"

Kathrina Leah Lavadia Bautista of Poveda Learning Centre, Quezon City. Winner of Category 1: Essay Writing for "Phones, Bones, and Universal Culture"



Rodrigo Casiaño Jr. of La Consolacion College, Bacolod City. Winner of Category 2: Essay Writing for "TECHNOLOGY: Empowering the Youth of Today"

Congratulations!

Abracadabra
The English Magazine for Grade School

Magica
The English Magazine for High School

WordWorks
work wonders with words

Magica
A Taste of Italy
3rd YEAR
Abracadabra
The Great, BIG BALL of ICE

Diwa Learning Systems Inc, publisher of *Abracadabra* and *Magica*, salutes the winners of WordWorks 2004, a poetry and essay writing competition for grade school and high school students to encourage them to discover and display their creative writing skills. The project is part of Diwa's continuing commitment to help improve the quality of education in the country and part of *Abracadabra*'s and *Magica*'s activities to practice students' communication skills in English.

Abracadabra and Magica are the country's leading grade school and high school Scholastic Enhancement Materials (SEMs) for the English subject available for subscription to schools nationwide.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all those who joined the competition.

DIWA LEARNING SYSTEMS INC
4/F SEDDCO 1 Bldg, Thailand (formerly Rada) corner Legazpi Streets, Legaspi Village
1227 MAKATI CITY, Metro Manila • Telephone: (63-2) 8938501 • Fax: (63-2) 8178700
Email: info@diwamail.com • Website: http://www.diwa.ph

DIWA

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Syria to pull out troops from Lebanon soon

BEIRUT—Syria indicated it would start withdrawing some of its troops from Lebanon soon, but US President George W. Bush insisted it should "end its occupation" of its neighbor.

International and Lebanese pressure have mounted on Syria since the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri in Beirut a week ago, blamed by Lebanon's opposition on Syria.

Thousands of Lebanese demonstrated in Beirut on Monday, calling for the government to resign and Syria to pull out its 14,000 troops from Lebanon, while the United States and France piled up international pressure on Damascus.

Bush, in a speech at the start of a trip to Europe, branded Syria an "oppressive neighbor" to Lebanon and insisted Damascus must "end its occupation."

Arab League chief Amr Moussa said President Bashar al-Assad had told him Syria would soon take steps toward withdrawing its forces in line with the Taif agreement, which ended Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

"President Bashar al-Assad stressed more than once in (our) talks his firm intention to press ahead with the implementation of the Taif agreement and to plan a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon in line with this agreement," he told reporters after meeting Assad in Damascus.

"The issue of Taif and the withdrawal is... part of Syrian policy. There will be talk and steps that we will see soon," Moussa said.

The 1989 Taif agreement committed Syria to shifting its troops in Lebanon to the eastern Bekaa Valley. It also stipulated that Syria and Lebanon should agree a timetable for a complete Syrian pullout. That is yet to be agreed.

Syria, which has 14,000 troops in Lebanon, pulled out or re-deployed a few thousand troops last year. It was widely expected to pull out some more troops ahead of a general election in Lebanon, due to take place by May.

"Just as the Syrian regime must take stronger action to stop those who support violence and subversion in Iraq and must end its support for terrorist groups seeking to destroy the hope of peace between Israelis and Palestinians, Syria must also end its occupation of Lebanon," Bush said in a speech in Belgium.

"Our shared commitment to democratic progress is being tested in Lebanon, a once-thriving country that now suffers under the influence of an oppressive neighbor," he said at the start of a trip to meet European Union and Nato leaders.

Sami Baroudi, associate professor of political science at the Lebanese American University, said Bush's comments were part of the pressure on Syria to implement last year's UN Security Council resolution calling for it to quit Lebanon.

"I'm sure more messages will be sent at the Brussels summit, but the Syrians don't feel this is the right time to make a 180 degree turn in their policy," Baroudi said.

Lebanon's pound was stable on Monday but the central bank continued to sell dollars amid worries over the death of Hariri, credited with masterminding Lebanon's reconstruction effort. *Reuters*

RELIGIOUS DANCE
Masked dancers display daggers during Cham Dances in front of the main hall at the Labrang Monastery on the second day of the Monlam (Great Prayer) Festival in Xiahe on the remote fringes of the Tibetan plateau in western China's Gansu province. AFP

Strong quake hits Iran; 400 dead

TEHRAN—A strong earthquake hit southeast Iran on Tuesday, killing almost 400 people, injuring hundreds and destroying some villages, a local official said.

The early morning quake, which measured 6.4 on the Richter scale, also injured more than 1,000 people and was centered on the town of Zarand in Kerman province, about 700 km southeast of Tehran.

The tremor came just over a year after a devastating earthquake in Bam, about 250 km southeast of Zarand, in which some 31,000 people were killed in December 2003.

While villages were razed in Tuesday's quake, major towns and cities in the area appeared to have escaped heavy damage, officials said. This meant that the toll would not be as high as the many thousands killed in some similar quakes in the past.

"Figures we have show that in the early hours more than 1,000 were injured and almost 400 killed," said Ali Komsari, a spokesperson for the Kerman provincial governor's office.

Zarand Gov. Javad Rashidi said the death toll stood at 130. "But there is a possibility for the figure to rise to 500," he told the semi-official ISNA students news agency.

Mohammad Ali Karimi, governor of Kerman province, said the area affected by the earthquake contained a population of about 30,000 people in some 40 villages which had received structural damage varying from 20 to 90 percent. *Reuters*

Bush warns Russia for curbing reforms

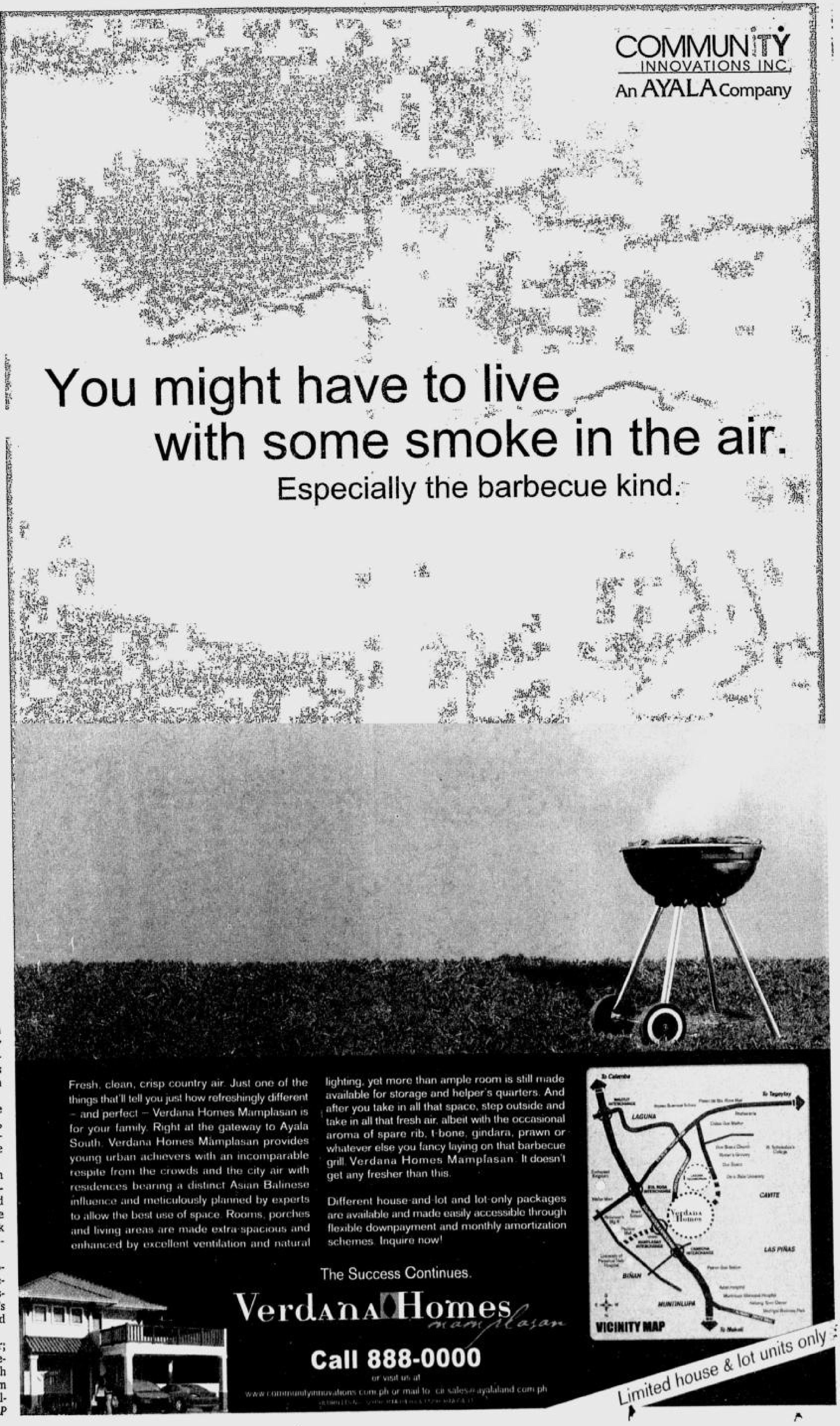
BRUSSELS—US President George W. Bush scolded Russia for backsliding on democracy Monday and urged Mideast allies to take difficult steps for peace, appealing for Europe's help in both troubled areas to "set history on a hopeful course."

Bush opened his discussions with a gesture of reconciliation toward disgruntled allies, hosting an elegant dinner for French President Jacques Chirac, the harshest critic of the US invasion of Iraq.

Three days before seeing Vladimir Putin in Slovakia, Bush admonished the Russian leader to "renew a commitment to democracy and the rule of law." Putin has raised alarms in the West by consolidating power, rolling back democratic reforms and curbing press and political freedoms.

Bush said the United States and all European countries "should place democratic reform at the heart of their dialogue with Russia." The president suggested that Moscow's entry in the World Trade Organization could hinge on whether it changes course.

"I've got a good relationship with Vladimir; I intend to keep it that way," Bush told reporters during a photo opportunity with Chirac. "But as well, I intend to remind him that if his interests lie West, that we share values ... and those values are important." *AP*



COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company

Fresh, clean, crisp country air. Just one of the things that'll tell you just how refreshingly different – and perfect – Verdana Homes Mamplasan is for your family. Right at the gateway to Ayala South, Verdana Homes Mamplasan provides young urban achievers with an incomparable respite from the crowds and the city air with residences bearing a distinct Asian Balinese influence and meticulously planned by experts to allow the best use of space. Rooms, porches and living areas are made extra-spacious and enhanced by excellent ventilation and natural lighting, yet more than ample room is still made available for storage and helper's quarters. And after you take in all that space, step outside and take in all that fresh air, albeit with the occasional aroma of spare rib, t-bone, gindara, prawn or whatever else you fancy laying on that barbecue grill. Verdana Homes Mamplasan. It doesn't get any fresher than this.

Different house-and-lot and lot-only packages are available and made easily accessible through flexible downpayment and monthly amortization schemes. Inquire now!

The Success Continues.

Verdana Homes mamplasan

Call 888-0000
or visit us at
www.communityinnovations.com.ph or mail to ci sales@ayalaland.com.ph

Palestinians in political crisis over new Cabinet

RAMALLAH—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was deep in political crisis on Tuesday over the inclusion of members of Yasser Arafat's corruption-tainted "old guard" in a new Cabinet up for approval by a reform-minded legislature.

Lawmakers from Abbas's Fatah faction threatened to vote no-confidence in the government, a move that would force Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie from office, unless changes were made in the cabinet line-up before parliament met later in the day.

Abbas and pro-reform legislators have been trying to persuade Qurie to drop some Arafat loyalists widely seen by Palestinians as corrupt and include more new faces in the government, especially technocrats who can help it run smoother.

"Fatah members of the legislature will meet before parliament convenes. If they don't receive (the changes), they will proceed with voting no-confidence in Abu Ala (Qurie)," a legislator from the faction said.

Negotiations Affairs Minister Saeb Erekat described the situation as difficult but said: "That is what democracy is all about."

Abbas, who would be under no obligation to leave office if Qurie does, is under pressure from the United States and other international donors to revamp often competing security forces and fight corruption.

"I hope he will seize the moment," US President George W. Bush said in a speech in Brussels on Tuesday during a fence-mending visit to Europe.

Many foreign ministers are gathering in London on March 1 to help draw up a financial assistance plan for the Palestinians as momentum toward a possible Middle East peace settlement advances following Arafat's death in November.

"Reform is part of Abbas' program and we are committed to this policy," Nabil Abu Rdainah, a Palestinian Authority spokesperson, said of Bush's remarks.

Prospects for peacemaking have brightened since Abbas succeeded Arafat on a platform of non-violence and persuaded militants to abide by a de facto truce.

In a goodwill gesture to Abbas, Israel freed 500 Palestinian prisoners on Monday in the largest release for nearly a decade.

But the mood of celebration was tempered by Palestinian demands for even larger prisoner releases to help Abbas get armed groups to formalize the ceasefire he reached with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at a summit in Egypt on Feb. 8.

Israel still holds about 8,000 prisoners and says it will free 400 after a joint committee with the Palestinians finalises a roster.

Abbas vowed to make winning freedom for all jailed Palestinians the "top of our priorities," but Israel has refused to release prisoners "with blood on their hands."

The detainees were freed a day after Sharon's Cabinet approved a pullout from the Gaza Strip, the first time Israel has decided to dismantle settlements on land Palestinians want for a state.

Palestinians welcomed the Gaza withdrawal, slated to begin on July 20, but were angry at Israel's simultaneous decision to endorse a route for a barrier looping deep into the West Bank to take in major settlement blocs near Jerusalem.

Israel says the barrier stops suicide bombers. Palestinians call it an attempt to grab land they want for a state. *Reuters*

HAVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE!
Study at
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
Only P2,500 PER COURSE
SCB The Success & Confidence Building Program
CP-1 On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
CP-2 On Grammar & Conversational English
CP-3 On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
WP-1 On Business & Technical Writing
WP-2 On Feature & Creative Writing
JCP On Speech, Grammar, Public Speaking, Confidence Bldg., Personality Dev't.
• Reading and Comprehension for kids
PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE
MAKATI - 845-0886 / 753-1049 ALABANG - 753-1048

IWATA Paper Shredder NEW MODELS
Can shred CD's, Credit Cards & Staple Wire
15's capacity
CROSS-CUT S-1500
7's capacity
CROSS-CUT S-658
P8,600 P7,800
15's capacity (A4/80gsm) 7's capacity
41x32x62cm (Machine Size) 34x24x56cm
4x38mm (Shred Size) 2x15mm
SPL FEATURES. Auto ON/OFF, Paper Jam Reverse Key, Thermal Overload Protection, Infra-Red Sensor for Auto ON/OFF, Auto Shut-Off on Bin Removal, Safety Window
SOLE AGENT: COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Suite 900 Del Monte Mansion Building Del Monte Avenue cor. 910 Speaker Perez Street, Quezon City
Tels. 410-4313, 740-3865, 740-8138 to 40, 740-8140, 411-5396 to 98
Telefax 411-0395 Fax 411-0399 email: colent@pacific.net

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, February 23, 2005
2nd Week of Lent

1st Reading: Jer 18:18-20
Gospel: Matthew 20:17-28

When Jesus was going to Jerusalem, he took the Twelve aside and said to them on the way, "See, we are going to Jerusalem. There the Son of Man will be given over to the chief priests and the teachers of the Law who will condemn him to death. They will hand him over to the foreigners who will mock him, scourge him and crucify him. But he will be raised to life on the third day."

Then the mother of James and John came to Jesus with her sons, and she knelt down to ask a favor. Jesus said to her, "What do you want?" And she answered, "Here you have my two sons. Grant that they may sit, one at your right and one at your left, when you are in your kingdom."

Jesus said to the brothers, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They answered, "We can." Jesus replied, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right or at my left is not for me to grant. That will be for those for whom the Father has prepared it."

The other ten heard all this and were angry with the two brothers. Then Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the nations act as tyrants, and the powerful oppress them. It shall not be so among you; whoever wants to be more important in your group shall make himself your servant. And if you want to be first, make yourself the servant of all. Be like the Son of Man who has come, not to be served but to serve and to give his life to redeem many."

Commentary

They plot against Jeremiah, the religious people who have no intention of listening to and obeying the Word of God in his mouth. And Jeremiah cries out both for justice and remembrance that he stood before God and spoke on their behalf—he cries out for a hearing now! And Jesus tries to tell his disciples that he will be executed, rejected, tortured and they not only ignore him, but James and John send their mother in to ask for the best seats in the kingdom to come. Jesus asks them if they can drink from his cup of suffering and know the baptism of death and resurrection. They will, but they miss entirely Jesus' invitation to share in his sufferings and death, so as to share in his glory and he reminds them to be like him (not the world) and to serve and give their lives in ransom for many. Lord, you invite us daily to take up our crosses and to follow you. You ask us to share in your sufferings, to serve one another and to give our lives as ransom, help us to share your pain, your way of the cross and your closeness to God and care for others instead of always thinking of ourselves first. Amen.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

AWARD-WINNING PHOTO
US Marines of the 28th Regiment, 5th Division, raise the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, Japan, in this Feb. 23, 1945 file photo. A dwindling group of American survivors gathered this weekend, 60 years later, to commemorate the battle of Iwo Jima. AP

Avalanches, extreme cold kill 168 in India's Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India—Avalanches and extreme cold in India's portion of Kashmir have killed 168 people and left at least 212 others missing, and the Himalayan region remained cut off from the rest of the country Tuesday for the fourth straight day.

Police and soldiers pulled the bodies of 10 people from their homes Tuesday after an avalanche swept Ramsu village in India's Jammu-Kashmir state, an officer on duty at police headquarters in Jammu said.

At least 12 other people were missing in Ramsu in the frontier Doda district, 190 km north of Jammu, the winter capital of the state, the officer said on customary condition of anonymity.

Across the state in Srinagar, restaurant workers found the bodies of four colleagues who had been asphyxiated after they left a coal fire burning in their room to keep warm as they slept.

"Their dead bodies were found by colleagues who came to work in the morning," said Ali Mohammed, a police officer in Srinagar.

Heavy snow and low temperatures have gripped the Kashmir valley since last week. Avalanches and mud slides triggered by rain and snow have buried entire villages and collapsed houses across the state.

An army rescue team rescued six people in the remote village of Valtengu after trekking through hip-deep snow for more than 10 hours Monday. They were searching for more survivors, an army spokesman said Tuesday.

"The team has communicated that most of the homes are under 4.5 to 5.5 meters of snow and chances of finding survivors are very low," said Lt. Col. V.K. Batra.

Three army helicopters were to begin dropping food packets and blankets in the area for rescue workers to distribute to stranded villagers, he said.

The weather office said the cold spell was expected to continue. *AP*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—**Certiorari will issue only to correct errors of jurisdiction.** In a petition for certiorari, the jurisdiction of the court is narrow in scope. It is limited to resolving only errors of jurisdiction. It is not to stray at will and resolve questions or issues beyond its competence such as errors of judgment. Errors of judgment of the trial court are to be resolved by the appellate court in the appeal or via a petition for review on certiorari in this Court under Rule 45 of the Rules of Court. Certiorari will issue only to correct errors of jurisdiction. It is not a remedy to correct errors of judgment. An error of judgment is one in which the court may commit in the exercise of its jurisdiction, and which error is reversible only by an appeal. As long as the court acts within its jurisdiction, any alleged errors committed in the exercise of its discretion will amount to nothing more than mere errors of judgment, correctible by an appeal or a petition for review under Rule 45 of the Rules of Court. An error of jurisdiction is one where the act complained of was issued by the court without or in excess of jurisdiction and which error is correctible only by the extraordinary writ of certiorari. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Callejo, Sr., Second Division, Corpuz vs Sandiganbayan, G. R. No. 162214, November 11, 2004]

By R. B. Vera

Unicef UK says one in 12 children exploited at work

LONDON—One child in 12 is forced into the "worst forms" of labor, including slavery, the sex trade and hazardous and illicit activities, the British branch of the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) said in a report released Monday.

Unicef UK said that 350 million children aged five to 17 worked, and that 180 million of them were "involved in the worst forms of child labor—hazardous work, slavery, forced labor, in armed forces, commercial sexual exploitation and illicit activities."

Fully 97 percent of those worst cases of child labor take place in developing countries, it said, stressing that the fight against poverty was the best means to improve the plight of children.

"One way to put an end to the exploitation of children... is by taking action to make poverty history and ensuring a commitment to more and better international aid," said Unicef UK executive director David Bull.

The report said that in the 43 countries where annual incomes are $500 or less per person, between 30 and 60 percent of children are used in child labor, while in countries where average income rises to $500-1,000, the percentage of child laborers drops to between 10 and 30 percent.

"They form a vicious circle, poverty giving rise to labor and labor perpetuating poverty," the report said.

Unicef UK lauded the pledge of developed countries, made more than 30 years ago, of allocating 0.7 percent of gross domestic product to development aid but regretted that only five countries today fulfill that promise—Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Sweden. *AFP*

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 *www.philhealth.gov.ph*

February 11, 2005

PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 04, s. 2005

TO : ALL ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES, ACCREDITATION DEPARTMENT AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Clarifications on certain provisions of PhilHealth Circular Nos. 15 and 29, s. 2004 (Submission of Financial Statement)

In order to facilitate compliance with PhilHealth Circular No. 15 and 29, series of 2004 as to the submission of the health care provider's financial statement as an accreditation requirement, the following clarifications are hereby issued:

A. The Corporation considers the submission of the required financial statement as necessary information needed for the promotion of quality health care services at all levels of the health care delivery system. The financial and administrative management capabilities of the hospital and the financial well-being of the health care providers must be assessed so as to ensure the responsiveness of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) to its members and all other stakeholders. It shall guide in the enhancement of NHIP benefits and the development of interventions that will increase investments in the health care sector. As such, the showing of net loss instead of net gain or profit shall not be the determinant for the denial of accreditation.

B. The financial statement will be considered privileged and confidential information between the accredited institutional health care provider and the Corporation and shall not be released by PhilHealth to any party without the express approval of the concerned health care provider.

C. The financial statement requirement applies to accreditation applications of all types by infirmaries, primary to tertiary care hospitals, ambulatory surgical clinics, and free-standing dialysis clinics.

D. Private for-profit hospitals and other institutional health care providers; and non-stock, non-profit organizations providing health services registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), shall submit the LATEST audited income statements. However, the latest audited income statement should not be more than two calendar years behind the calendar year an application is submitted.

(For example, if the renewal of accreditation is for 2005-2006, the latest acceptable audited income statement shall be for calendar year 2003)

E. Single proprietor hospitals; and all other institutional health care providers not mandated to be registered with the SEC or CDA, shall fill up and sign the PhilHealth Financial Statement Form (Annex A).

F. Government hospitals with fiscal autonomy shall also be required to submit their latest audited income statement or the signed PhilHealth Statement Form whichever is applicable.

For your information and guidance.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc.**
Secretary
President and CEO

Annex "A"

PHILHEALTH
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FORM

(Name of Institutional Health Care Provider)
(Address)

INCOME STATEMENT for the YEAR ENDED December 31, ______

		YEAR ( )
A	GROSS REVENUES	
B	COST OF SALES AND SERVICES	
C	GROSS INCOME or LOSS *Equivalent to GROSS REVENUES MINUS COST of SALES and SERVICES or (A minus B)*	
D	OPERATING EXPENSES	
E	NET INCOME or LOSS from OPERATIONS *Equivalent to GROSS INCOME or LOSS MINUS OPERATING EXPENSES or (C minus D)*	
F	OTHER INCOME or CHARGES	
G	NET INCOME (LOSS)	

** Details may be specified for all the fields such as the breakdown of gross revenues, the cost of sales and services, and operating expenses*

Prepared by: ____________________ (date)
Noted by: ____________________ (date)
Hospital Administrator or Equivalent

Australia to send more troops to Iraq

CANBERRA—Australia will send 450 more troops to southern Iraq to help protect Japanese engineers and bolster democracy, Prime Minister John Howard announced Tuesday, going back on a pledge not to significantly boost his country's contribution to the coalition.

Australia, a staunch US ally, sent 2,000 troops to take part in the invasion of Iraq and still has nearly 900 troops in and around the country. The decision to join the invasion sparked the biggest peace protests in Australia since the Vietnam War.

"This has not been, is not and will not be an easy decision for the government; I know it will be unpopular with many," Howard said. The Australian troops will replace Dutch soldiers who had been serving in the al-Muthana province of southern Iraq but are scheduled to pull out by mid-March.

"I believe this is the right decision," Howard added. "It will make a significant contribution to the coalition effort; it will make a significant contribution to the rebuilding of Iraq."

The opposition Labor Party accused Howard of misleading Australians ahead of his October reelection by saying the government had no plans for a dramatic increase in troops. Labor had pledged to withdraw troops by Christmas.

"We the Labor Party have said that as far as Iraq is concerned, we need to be differently engaged, not more deeply engaged," Beazley said.

Howard said after visiting Baghdad last April that Australia lacked the capacity to increase its commitment by hundreds of troops. "I can definitely say we won't be adding hundreds; I can definitely say that we're not going to have a capacity to put more regular soldiers on the ground," Howard said at the time.

Howard said he made the decision to send more troops to Iraq following phone calls from Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. British forces are responsible for security in the region.

"We welcome the decision and praise it highly," Japan's Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura said in a statement. "It encourages the international community that has been making efforts to rebuild Iraq." *AP*

CITYLAND
LEADING CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPER
Presidential Awardee
MAKATI EXECUTIVE TOWERS I &II
Few units left
Construction in full swing
Dela Rosa St.,
Pio Del Pilar, Makati City
Office, Commercial and Residential Condominium for as low as
P11,868/mo. HLURB License to Sell#04867
IN-HOUSE FINANCING AVAILABLE
P5,528/mo. HLURB License to Sell#08177
CITYLAND *812-2222 *243-6565 *818-8888 *241-1894 *892-6150
*(0919)310-8553 www.cityland.net • investment@cityland.net

Tutoring - A comprehensive and effective approach to grasp the working math principle **quickly.**
QUICK MATH
(Speed Math Development)
Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Trigo, Accounting, Statistics, Eng'g Math, Chemistry, Physics, Calculus, etc.
SPECIAL LANGUAGES
French, Mandarin, Nipongo, German, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, English, etc.
Expert tutors available at our Center & for Home tutorials
Tel. Nos.: 5308671•4844420•5306933
EXPANSE STUDY CARE & DEV. CENTER
Rm. 308 & 506 Mervin Terraces Cond.
980 P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila

COPIERS Sales/Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available : LIQUID COPIERS
BRAND NEW! RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS
P15,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320 15 CPM
P49,900. ONLY BRAND NEW CANON FC 200 FOR PERSONAL USE
P15,000. ONLY RECON FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER
P15,000. ONLY
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS!
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56 781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph
• RINGBINDERS / LAMINATORS
CUTTERS/BLUEPRINT/RISO
• FAX MACHINES, ETC
ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
• BUY/TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004
voted by readers SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004 Reader's Digest Philippines
SUPERBRAND HALL OF FAME
voted by readers SUPER BRAND GOLD Reader's Digest Philippines
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2003
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2002
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2001
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2000
SUPER BRAND GOLD 1999
PILOT
Experience the Ultimate writing instrument
V5&V7 Hi-Tecpoint

PILOT Hi-Tecpoint V5 Extra Fine

BX-V5
BX-V7
Unique stainless steel pen tip with a micro ball in the tip made writing Ultimate Smooth
Philippine Exclusive Distributor:
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. PAREDES ST., BINONDO, MANILA
P.O. BOX 1601 Tels.: 243-6912 to 14 Fax: 242-5671
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

An Invitation To A
HOLY WEEK PILGRIMAGE TO THE
LAND of the BIBLE
JORDAN, HOLY LAND and EGYPT
13 Days
DEPARTURE DATE: March 19, 2005
Fr. STEPHEN PLACENTE, S.D.B.
Pilgrimage Chaplain
Executive Resources, Inc.
INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE COORDINATORS
Lower Lobby, Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila
Call Amie or Merle • Tel. Nos. 523-8581, 521-4156
Fax: 526-0126 • E-mail: pilgrimage@execres.com.ph
Website: www.executiveresources.com.ph
DOT-085-2003
IATA PTAA

idec®
AIRCONDITION
Split Type Aircon
The aircon that creates cool & quiet environment.
1hp P16,500
1.5hp P18,500 2hp P25,000
Free Installation!
Call 8866696/7880221
Available at MC Home Depot -Makati, Fort Bonifacio & Ortigas

IWATA TIME RECORDERS
DURABLE & RELIABLE, ALMOST 20 YEARS IN THE MARKET NOW
FREE DEMO
Digital Clock 10:10
Operates during brownouts
Uses 6 Columns Time Card
Analog Clock
P9,300.00 MODEL: CH-1A
P9,500 = E2A 2color printing Red for Late Black for Punctual
P12,850.00 MODEL: CW-1A
E2A 2Color & CH-1A /CW-1A 1Color Printing, Programmable Alarm, Memory & Battery Back-Up for brown-out use, Mark printing for Late & O.T., Dual Time Display, Perpetual Calendar
VERY HEAVY DUTY
SOLE DIST.:
COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Tels. 412-4317, 740-3815, 742-8139 to 42, 411-2396 to 98
Fax 411-2399 E-mail: colent@pldtdsl.net

KITANO®
Call now at: 890-5310 • 890-5320 890-5327 • 896-7764
e-mail ad: kitoffice@yahoo.com
website: www.nlboworld.com
HEAVY DUTY BINDERS
Wire Binder WB-4025D NEW
Plastic Comb Binder
40 Holes (14")
24 Holes (14") BM-C24D
MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE
• Adjustable printing position
• Pre-set counter
• 120 copies per minute
• Dual operation
SD-6800
BILL COUNTERS NEW
• UV Counterfeit Detector
• 900 notes per minute
MC-2088
MC-6700II
• UV Counterfeit Detector
• Variable Speed
• Preset and Addition Mode
• Note Detection
CHECKWRITERS
CW-1600 • Multi-Currency • 14-digits • HEAVY DUTY
• 10-digits
• With Calculator
• Embossed Printing
• HEAVY DUTY
KI-880
LAMINATOR
NEW 13 Inches
LM-330A
• Adjustable Temperature
• 4 HEAVY DUTY Rollers
Other Sizes: 3 & 12.5 Inches
BUNDY CLOCKS
• Two color Printing • HI Musical Melody • Auto Card Feed • Auto Column Shifting • Back-up Battery • HEAVY DUTY •

SUMMER HOLIDAY TOURS
Holyland with Amman & Petra, Egypt and Mt. Sinai
- USD 1,598.00 -
Departure Date: Apr. 11, 25 & May 9, 2005
MARIAN PILGRIMAGE
• Sightseeing Tour with Venice •
- USD 2,985.00 -
Departure Date: Apr. 19 & May 12, 2005
PLUS!!!
• Kenya Safari Tour
• Holyweek in Holyland
• Holyweek Europe Pilgrimage
• Holyland with Turkey
• Medjugorje w/ Lourdes & Fatima
TP travelplan, inc.
ESTABLISHED 1968
Tel. Nos.: 524-1409 • 523-2157 • 525-4564 • 521-8524
Trunkline No.: 523-8290 to 92 • Fax Nos.: 521-6403 • 521-6680
E-mail: tvplan@skyinet.net

Trusted name since 1986
DLI GENERICS
Exclusively Distributed by: Pacific Pharmaceuticals Generics Inc. 459 Quezon Ave., cor Banawe, QC.
Quality na gamot, sa presyong mas abot!!!
Suggested Retail Price January 8, 2005 • Makatitipid ng higit sa 80%

Analgesic/Antipyretic (Para sa kirot, lagnat o trangkaso)		DLI	Leading Brand	Savings
Mefenamic Acid susp. 50 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	24.00	104.00	80.00/bot
Mefenamic Acid tab. 500 mg	✓	1.70	20.85	19.15/tab
Paracetamol syrup 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	21.70	63.50	41.80/bot
Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓	0.60	2.45	1.85/tab
Anti-biotic (Kontra-Bakterya)				
Amoxicillin cap. 250 mg	✓	2.60	8.95	6.35/cap
Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓	3.70	15.75	12.05/cap
Amoxicillin drops 125 mg/1.25 ml/10 ml	✓	45.10	144.00	98.90/bot
Amoxicillin susp. 250 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	6.50	14.15	7.65/bot
Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓	3.20	37.75	34.55/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	40.40	394.75	354.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓	2.30	26.00	23.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓	2.60	14.80	12.20/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓	25.40	115.75	90.35/bot
Anti-cough (Para sa Ubo)				
Bromhexine HCL syrup 4 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	26.70	74.75	48.05/bot
Carbocisteine cap. 500 mg	✓	2.40	12.25	9.85/cap
Carbocisteine susp. 100 mg/5 ml, 60 ml	✓	32.70	87.25	54.55/bot
Anti-diarrhea (Para sa Pagtatae)				
Loperamide cap. 2mg	✓	1.80	10.25	8.45/cap

Mabibili sa sumusunod at sa mga botikang abot-kaya ang halaga.
Huwag ipagpapalit sa iba! Hanapin ang tatak DLI.
If out of stock, call 711-3933 712-49900743-1636
Watsons YOUR PERSONAL STORE (Tel: 929-7263, 633-2828)
EMILENE'S PHARMACY (Tel: 823-1672, 823-1672)
Carlos SuperDrug (Tel: 723-2291, 912-3818)
Rose Pharmacy (Tel: 725.8150, 454-5365)
For factory prices visit: www.DLI-Generics.com for complete product & price information

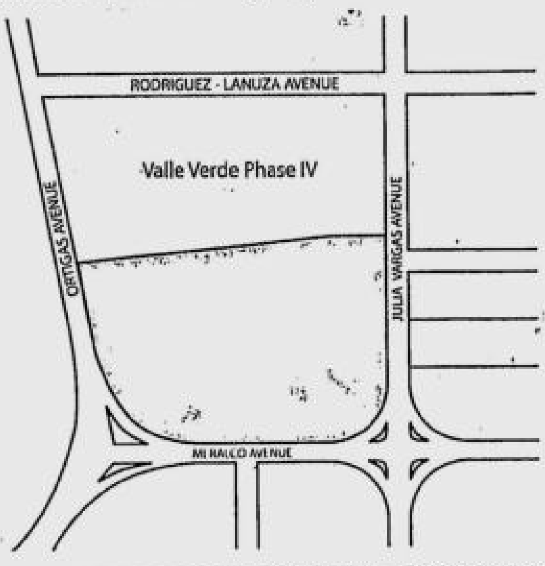
Drink up or speak up. Our continued reliance on imported fossil fuels like coal and oil for energy is one of the largest reasons behind problems like global warming, air pollution, the rise in respiratory ailments, and the worsening condition of our water supplies. This dependence also leaves us economically vulnerable to the spiralling cost of coal and oil in the world market. And things will only get murkier unless we reduce our use of coal and oil and push for the increased use of renewable energy sources like geothermal, wind, biomass, hydro, and solar. Speak up and let the government know you want clean energy. Text WWF YES <Your Name> to 2366 for Globe (P2.50/text) or log on to www.powerswitch.org.ph/vote. Act now and help get the Renewable Energy Bill passed into law. Maybe then, the future won't be such a hard thing to swallow.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER WWF

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on-going developments on the properties bounded by Ortigas Avenue, Meralco Avenue, Julia Vargas Avenue and Valle Verde Phase IV, as shown in the shaded portion below, are **not** projects of Ortigas & Company, Limited Partnership (hereafter **Ortigas & Company**).

These properties are subject to Civil Case no. 0093 "Ortigas & Company, Limited Partnership versus Philippine Commission on Good Government et al." pending before the Sandiganbayan. **Ortigas & Company** has never granted its conformity, directly or indirectly, to both current and past developments in these areas. All transactions entered over these properties or any portion thereof shall remain subject to the outcome of the aforesaid case.

Ortigas & Company reserves the right to pursue just compensation for the use of these properties or any portion thereof against all persons and entities from whom compensation may be due for use thereof.



FOR ORTIGAS & COMPANY, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

REX C. DRILON II
Chief Operating Officer

Battle vs deadly bird flu far from won, UN says

HO CHI MINH CITY—Bird flu experts from around Asia were gathering in Vietnam on Tuesday to figure out how to kill off a virus one leading American expert has called the world's biggest threat to human health.

"At the moment, we are not on top of it," said Hans Wagner of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization as he prepared for a two-day conference in Vietnam, the country worst hit by a virus which has killed 46 people since it arrived in Asia in late 2003.

"Definitely we have made progress, but there is much to be done," he said in Ho Chi Minh City, home to 10 million people and close to the Mekong Delta where Vietnam's latest outbreak began.

The H5N1 virus, which experts in Asia say thrives best in the cool season now coming to an end, spread to half Vietnam's 64 provinces and cities, killed 13 people and forced the government to take drastic measures to contain it.

The new outbreak a year after the highly contagious virus arrived in Asia, probably brought by migrating wildfowl, has reinforced fears that it could mutate into a form which could spread through a world population with no immunity to it.

Such an influenza pandemic, like the one in 1918 which killed between 20 million and 40 million people, could be devastating.

There is yet no vaccine against the H5N1 virus.

"This is a very ominous situation for the globe," Dr. Julie Gerberding, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States, said on Monday.

"I think we can all recognize a similar pattern probably occurred prior to 1918," she said.

The virus was the "most important threat that we are facing right now," Gerberding added.

Governments in Asia, where tens of millions of poultry have been slaughtered in a vain bid to eliminate the virus, were hard at work on the problem, the FAO's Wagner said.

Surveillance systems were in place, laboratories had been upgraded to do the necessary testing and warnings to the public not to touch sick chickens commonplace, he said.

"Every country is fully aware of the threat and the global threat, but the work has to be intensified," he said.

There is yet much to be learned about the virus, which has killed more than 70 percent of the people known to have contracted it.

Nobody knows how many people may have been exposed to the virus but not become ill.

Just last week, an international team of doctors said the H5N1 virus can produce encephalitis, diarrhea and other symptoms which do not look like the classic respiratory disease.

Meanwhile, farmers dependent on chickens in countries such as Vietnam and Thailand, which are also suffering from recurrences of the virus, are struggling to make a living.

Do Van Hoi, a 50-year-old chicken farmer in the Mekong Delta province of Long An, lost 18,000 chickens last year.

The government gave him 5,000 dong ($0.317) apiece in compensation. This year, it has doubled that. The problem is, he reckons it costs him 50,000 dong to raise a bird.

And he has had to fence in his birds with chicken wire to keep them away from wild birds and spray their compounds with disinfectant three times a day.

"I'm afraid there will be an outbreak on a nearby farm and the government will slaughter all poultry in the area," he said with an eye on a farm 1 km away raising ducks, which, like their wild cousins, can carry the virus without showing symptoms. *Reuters*

Writer who exposed Iraq prison abuse wins journalism award

NEW YORK—Seymour Hersh of The New Yorker won his fifth George Polk Award for his accounts of prisoner abuse in Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison, making him the most-honored individual in the history of the awards.

Reporters from The New York Times took three of the 2004 awards, and The Associated Press was a double winner.

Hersh won the magazine reporting prize for his Abu Ghraib stories 35 years after winning the Polk award for coverage of the My Lai massacre in Vietnam.

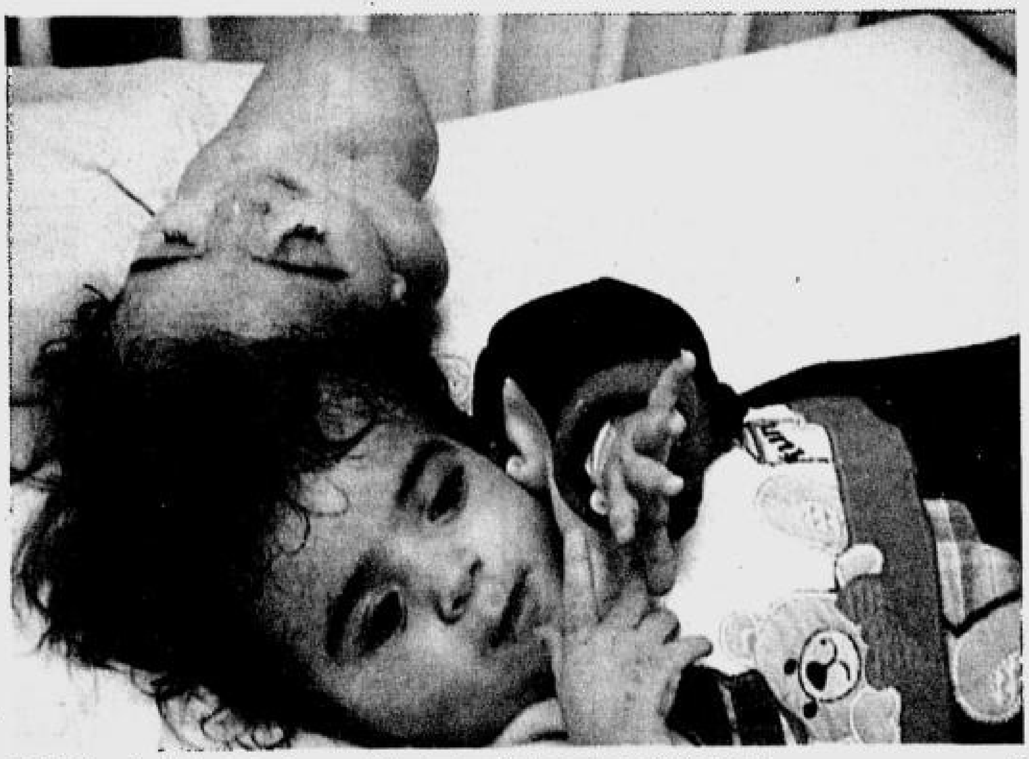
The Career Award went to Bill Moyers, who retired last year after more than three decades in public television. He won a Polk Award in 1980 for political reporting.

The 13 awards were to be announced Tuesday by Long Island University, which was to present the prizes April 21. They were created in 1949 in honor of the CBS reporter killed while covering the Greek civil war and rank among America's most coveted journalism honors.

Dexter Filkins of The New York Times won in the war reporting category for his firsthand accounts of attacks against Iraqi insurgents in Falluja. Walt Bogdanich of the Times won the national reporting category, his fourth Polk award, for his series on how railroad companies were able to sidestep regulations. Diana Henriques won the paper's third award for 2004 for military reporting. Her work looked at how insurance and investment firms with ties to military commanders took advantage of young soldiers.

The Associated Press' Paisley Dodds won the award for foreign reporting. She was cited for her work in Haiti, covering the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and then the aftermath of floods that devastated the country. She is now the news organization's chief of bureau in London. Justin Pritchard, the AP's news editor for Southern California, won the labor reporting prize for his investigation into the high rate of work-related deaths among Mexican workers in America. Pritchard's report, documented with federal data and survivor interviews, drew responses from the Mexican and US governments, including the first Hispanic Safety and Health Summit held by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. *AP*

Egyptian infant with second head in stable condition



BABY Maged with her twin who never fully developed attached to her by the head. AP

CAIRO—A 10-month-old girl was in stable condition Monday but still being carefully monitored for complications following intensive surgery last week to remove a second head that shared a blood vessel with her own brain.

Manar Maged, her head wrapped in a heavy white bandage that also covered her eyes, rested next to a blue teddy bear in the intensive care unit of Benha Hospital. Tubes ran from her nose and arms and nurses hovered around her.

Dr. Abla al-Alfi, senior consultant at the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit, said there has been "some stabilization" since the surgery on the child Saturday.

She said Manar had already been taken off medication to control post-surgery convulsions but other concerns remained, including the baby's liver, which had not functioned normally since the surgery. "She needs intensive treatment for some time," al-Alfi said.

Al-Alfi said they could not evaluate the status of Manar's nervous system until all medicines and tranquilizers had been stopped.

On Sunday, al-Alfi told Associated Press Television News that it would be 10 days before they'd know if Manar was "safe." "We still have a long way to go," she added.

The doctor said the 12-hour separation on Saturday, in the Nile Delta town of Benha, some 40 km north of Cairo, was the first surgery of its kind in the Middle East. Al-Alfi told APTN that Manar would remain on a ventilator until she stopped having convulsions, for which she was being medicated.

Manar bled extensively during surgery because of the major blood vessel that had to be severed, al-Alfi said, and there were complications in the day after the surgery, including unstable blood pressure, hypothermia, poor liver function and the blood not coagulating.

"Happily, within 24 hours we stabilized her," al-Alfi said. *AP*

JOIN NOW! Call: 895-9999 Metro Manila;

Government Warning: Cigarette sr

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

18th-century copper penny auctioned

BEVERLY HILLS—A copper penny minted in 1792 and kept in a tobacco tin for decades was auctioned for $437,000.

Anthony Terranova of New York City was the highest bidder at Monday's auction, said Donn Pearlman, spokesperson for Beverly Hills auction house Ira & Larry Goldberg Coins & Collectibles Inc.

The penny's owners were descendants of Oliver Wolcott, the governor of Connecticut in the 1790s and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, according to auctioneer Ira Goldberg.

"The historical importance of this coin cannot be overstated," said Michael Sherman, vice president of Professional Coin Grading Service, which directed a team of experts who authenticated the coin.

The chocolate-colored penny, the ninth known example of its type, bears the date 1792, an inscription "Parent of Science & Industry: Liberty," and the likeness of a woman's head representing Miss Liberty, Goldberg said. *AP*

FIRST IN 200 YEARS

Princess Aiko next in line for Japan's throne

TOKYO—Japan is preparing for a reigning empress for the first time in more than 200 years as the government drafts legal changes allowing female succession.

Japan's royals are facing their most serious succession crisis in centuries. The current law bars women from ascending the Chrysanthemum Throne and no boy has been born to the imperial family since the 1960s.

Kyodo News quoted an unnamed government official as saying the 3-year-old "Princess Aiko will go next" after her father, Crown Prince Naruhito, in line for the throne. The report gave no other details, and there was no answer late Monday from the prime minister's office.

Princess Aiko is the only child of Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako.

A panel of government experts began debating an amendment to the law last month but was not due to reach a conclusion until later this year. The panel has the power to recommend that the first-born child—be it boy or a girl—should be first in line to the throne.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was expected to act on the panel's recommendations. Parliament would also need to approve a change in the law.

Recent polls have placed public support for a reigning empress at above 80 percent. Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, the head of the 10-member panel, has said public opinion would be the most important factor in any decision.

The current crisis arose because the succession law drafted after World War II—part of legal changes redefining the emperor as a ceremonial leader—imposed the male-only rule.

The law has put enormous pressure on Masako to have a baby boy, so much so that she suffered a nervous breakdown in late 2003. The Harvard- and Oxford-educated former diplomat has been forced to spend much of the past year out of the public eye as she recuperates.

In a brief statement on her 41st birthday in December, Masako said: "I feel my health is getting better gradually."

Hideki Hayashida, grand master of the crown prince's family, told the media on the occasion of her birthday that the princess was "heading toward recovery" but tired easily and didn't sleep soundly.

Masako gave up a promising career in Japan's foreign ministry to marry Naruhito 12 years ago. Many Japanese had hoped the modern and multilingual princess would help shake up the conservative, tradition-minded imperial family and the Imperial Household Agency, which runs the royals' affairs.

Last year, Naruhito unleashed a storm when he suggested that unidentified palace officials had contributed to Masako's illness by not showing respect for her background and career.

The turmoil has stirred calls for allowing an empress to ascend to the throne and for reform of the agency.

A woman last sat on the Chrysanthemum Throne from 1762 to 1771, when Empress Gosakuramachi reigned until abdicating in favor of her nephew.

Seven other women have occupied the throne throughout its 1,500 years of documented history, but they all served as temporary caretakers until males could take over. None of their offspring ever succeeded them. *AP*

THIS file photo dated Sept. 4 2003 shows Japanese Princess Masako holding her daughter Princess Aiko. AFP

Still frail, Pope slowly resumes activities

VATICAN CITY—Three weeks after being rushed to the hospital with breathing problems, Pope John Paul II is slowly resuming his regular activities while making clear—once again—that he has no intention of stepping down.

Acting with caution, the Vatican said the frail Pontiff will not preside at his weekly public audience Wednesday but he will greet and bless the faithful from his apartment window overlooking St. Peter's Square.

However, the Vatican also said John Paul will hold his first meeting with a foreign dignitary since his illness, an audience Tuesday with the prime minister of Croatia, a Roman Catholic bastion in the Balkans.

He also met Monday with a group of Spanish bishops making a periodic visit to the Vatican.

For the moment, a Vatican official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said decisions on the 84-year-old Pope's availability will be made on a day-by-day basis.

Whenever John Paul addresses the faithful in various languages during his weekly audience, scores of people are brought up to the stage in the Vatican auditorium to kiss his ring or shake his hand. That would expose him to further illness at a time when hundreds of thousands of Italians have been stricken with the flu.

As the Pope has weakened physically over the past decade, the world has gotten used to seeing him struggling with his speech because of Parkinson's disease and remaining seated on a wheeled throne because of crippling knee and hip ailments.

John Paul appeared in good form and spoke in a strong, relatively clear voice during his Sunday address at St. Peter's Square, his second since being released from the hospital 10 days ago.

From his window at the Vatican, the 84-year-old Pontiff read his entire address, stopping briefly to cough and skipping a Latin prayer but continuing to the end with no apparent problems.

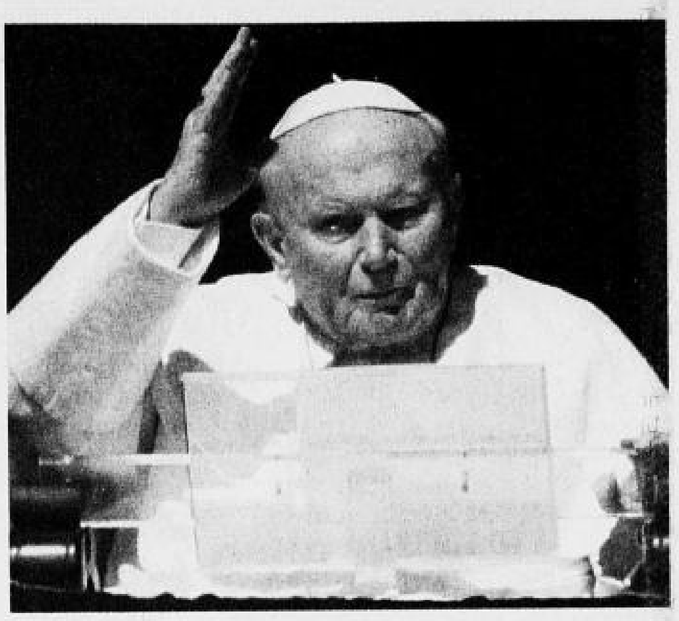
It was a marked contrast from recent speeches in which the Pontiff has struggled to catch his breath. Aides have finished many of his speeches for him, a practice that will clearly continue because of John Paul's speech problems.

His words Sunday carried a particular message—his determination not to step down.

He spoke of the "special task entrusted to (Saint) Peter and his successors," that of "remaining at the service of the unity of the Church."

"That cannot but sound as an indirect confirmation—as if one was still needed—of his will to continue as Pope, despite the growing difficulties," said the leading Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera.

Because of his ailments, there has long been speculation that John Paul might consider resigning. That debate was fueled during his hospitalization when the Vatican's No. 2, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, declined to rule out that possibility, saying it was up to the Pope's "conscience." *AP*



POPE John Paul II blesses pilgrims and faithful during his traditional appearance at the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, to lead the mid noon Angelus prayer Feb. 20. AP

THERE'S
NO FINISH
LINE.
THAT'S
THE POINT
MARLBORO
ADVENTURE
TEAM
PLAY HARD.
1-800-10-895-9999 Provincial for details
moking is dangerous to your health

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 20 No. 77

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Caught

EDITORIALS

AT THE PRESENTATION of the Millennium Project report of the United Nations at the Hotel Dusit in Makati City last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo enthused: "More government officials are being charged with corruption. Soon, they will not only be charged, they will have their ill-gotten gains forfeited to the government. That is my next instruction to our anticorruption officials."

The statement followed reports about recent gains in another war—the war on graft and corruption.

The week before, obviously acceding to public clamor, the President "sacked" the acting secretary of public works and highways. Also, on the basis of complaints filed by private citizens, the Ombudsman suspended a deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Customs. Two congressmen were also earlier ordered suspended by the Ombudsman for acts of corruption committed in their previous posts as provincial officials. Of course, before them, there were the military officials, led by Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot and Col. George Rabusa who were tagged either for unexplained wealth or for anomalous deals.

Undeniably, the war on corruption, under the Arroyo administration, has never looked this good, as its haul gets heftier with bigger and bigger fishes. Let us look at the records: 81 corruption cases are pending with the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission; 100 have been endorsed to the Ombudsman and 23 to the Office of the President. These are the figures as of Jan. 31, 2005, mostly the "harvest," so to speak, from the lifestyle check that was started in 2003.

Aside from the high officials mentioned, the list of the accused includes two undersecretaries (of the DPWH and the Department of the Interior and Local Government); an assistant secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications; the chief of a special investigation division of the Bureau of Internal Revenue; the general manager of the Laguna Lake Development Authority; and regional directors and assistant regional directors, among others. Notably, many of the accused come from the Armed Forces, DPWH, BOC and BIR, which are not surprisingly among the agencies generally perceived to be corrupt.

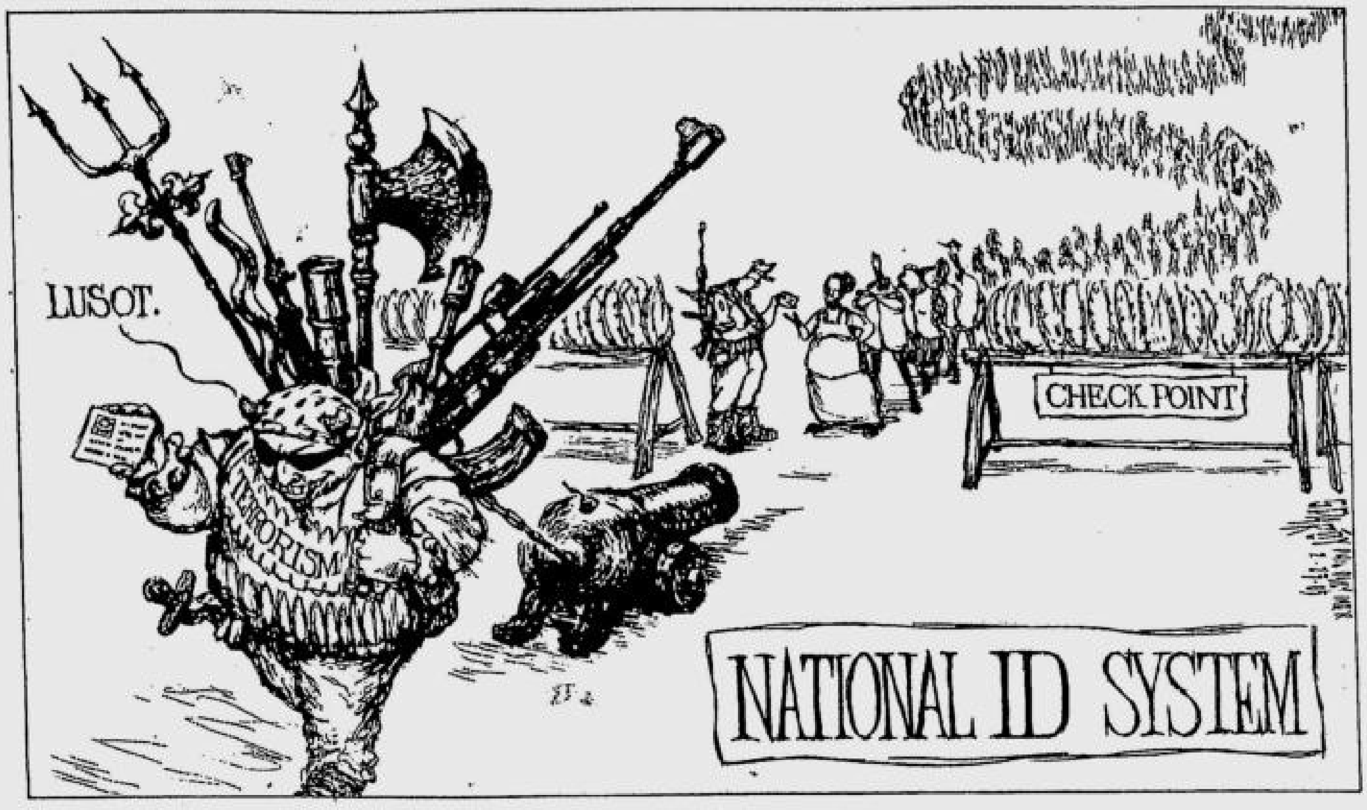
But not yet

PROMISING as the picture may seem to be, the harvest from the lifestyle checks is far from any assurance of success or complete victory in the war against corruption. Given the prevalence of corruption in all levels of government, the numbers are still relatively much too low. And even as the government seem to be scoring big lately, there is no clear sign that the enemy has slacked off.

In fact, Transparency International recently ranked the Philippines No. 2 among the world's most corrupt countries. The sacked public works secretary stays with his department as undersecretary, lower in rank but definitely still high in the totem pole, influential and powerful. Garcia, who has accumulated a large hoard of unexplained wealth, has only been charged with dishonesty, gross misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service and has yet to be charged with the heinous crime of plunder. And there were the big fishes who seemingly were so easily let off after being caught in the net.

In fact, there are other officials, who are perceived by the public to be no less, if not far more, corrupt, but who seem to remain untouched. Thus, doubts persist about the sincerity and resolve of the government in bringing the war against corruption to its logical conclusion.

Doubtless, the public is aching to see the government's lifestyle dragnet spread more widely to catch bigger fishes in other government institutions, like Congress, for example. But it is not enough, though, to discover which public officials flunk the lifestyle check or even to shame them by making their names known to the public. The real challenge to the administration lies in pursuing the cases until these crooks are put away permanently and, as the President promised, their ill-gotten wealth are turned over to the national treasury.



Pinoys have had bad experiences with IDs

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE PROPOSED National Identification Card System has once more violently divided public officials and the public the same way the value-added tax (VAT) has divided them. The Valentine's Day terrorist bombings has terrorized public officials into proposing the ID system, but the public is in bigger terror of an ID system than of bombs. The ID, which will contain basic information about the holder, will invade the privacy of the individual, a right guaranteed by the Constitution, say those who are opposed to it.

Curiously, Filipinos really like ID cards. The average Filipino has a few of them: a voter's ID, an SSS or GSIS ID, a driver's license, a company or school ID, a numbered vehicle sticker which identifies the owner of the vehicle, a credit card, a passport, a residence certificate, etc. These are all identification cards containing information about the individual, Senate President Franklin Drilon told the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday. The national ID will only combine in one card all the information already contained in all these different ID cards.

"What right to privacy is being violated by merely putting in one card the information the individual has already voluntarily put in the other cards?" Drilon asked. "Instead of having a wallet full of cards, he will have only one card."

Practically every civilized country in the world, including the United States which is the champion of democracy and privacy, has an ID system, Drilon noted. The Philippines is one of the very few that still doesn't have one.

Unfortunately, logic doesn't explain why Filipinos are allergic to a national ID system. The explanation is more psychological. Filipinos have had unpleasant experiences with IDs in the past.

During the Spanish regime, Filipinos were required to carry *cedulas*, which is the counterpart of today's residence certificate. It was a badge of servitude. Indios were required to show them to Guardia Civil sentries. So hated was the *cedula* that Andres Bonifacio and his Katipuneros tore up their *cedulas* in Balintawak as a gesture of their revolution against Spain.

During the Japanese Occupation, Filipinos were also required to show their residence certificates to Japanese sentries. If they didn't have any, they were slapped and taken to jail.

Filipinos are afraid the same thing will happen with a national ID system: people being accosted by cops and soldiers and told to produce their IDs and if they don't have any or they find something suspicious with the IDs, they would be jailed the same way the martial law regime of Marcos did. Can you blame Filipinos for being suspicious of IDs?

But the most practical reason against an ID system is the uselessness of it all. The system is the government's antidote to terrorism. But it is hard to understand how a piece of card or plastic will do it. Perhaps the theory is that it will identify a terrorist. How, I don't know. Perhaps the police will have a list of known terrorists and compare the names and photos on the list with those on the ID cards.

But as Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said, will a terrorist be foolish enough to put his own name on an ID? No, he will have a new identity. He will even try to alter his appearance.

And won't we just give more business to the Recto forgers? The Recto entrepreneurs (who by the way continue to ply their illegal trade openly without the police trying to stop them) are so good that they can produce almost any document one needs: passport, Torrens title, driver's license, bankbook, marriage certificate, school records, even FPJ's birth certificate showing that he was not a Filipino. Name it, they can produce it with such surprising accuracy that foreign embassies no longer accept Philippine documents as proof of anything.

Now if they can produce these documents convincingly, won't they try to produce IDs, too? Considering that there would be 80 million Filipinos who would need IDs, that would indeed be big business. Which means the whole exercise to flush out terrorists would be a waste of scarce money and an exercise in futility.

The government's answer to that is technology. The ID will not be the ordinary card but will be made of hard-to-duplicate plastic or some other material that will make a fake easy to detect. That remains to be proven. But even assuming it can be done, that means the ID will be frightfully expensive. And considering the millions of Filipinos who will ask for them, the whole exercise is going to cost tens of billions of pesos, money a bankrupt government cannot afford.

Which means, in turn, that this is not the time to do it. Even now, Congress is having a hard time passing a measure to increase the VAT because people strongly oppose it. How can the government ask the people to pay more taxes when it is not even trying to cut expenses but, on the contrary, is thinking of new ways to spend more money it doesn't even have yet?

Worse, the government is going to use part of that money to invade their privacy and even spy on them. If the government insists on implementing a national ID system, I think the next revolution will be preceded by the Cry of Mendiola when people will gather at this now famous street and cut up their plastic IDs.

But I have my own proposal to make Filipinos accept the ID system and even scramble to get one. Considering how many Filipinos crave for the green card, let's make our ID card green.

Ghosts

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

HAMPTON Sides, author of "Ghost Soldiers," gives the movie version of his book a pat on the back. The movie is "The Great Raid," which stars Benjamin Bratt and our very own Cesar Montano. It tells of the daring rescue of American prisoners held by the Japanese in Cabanatuan during World War II. This happened at a time when the Japanese were being pushed back and had taken to executing their prisoners en masse. In all, some 500 Americans were saved by the raid, which involved 121 US Rangers and 80 Filipino guerrillas.

Sides was here a couple of weeks ago to speak at the University of Sto. Tomas during the commemoration of the end of Word War II. UST itself was one big internment camp during the Japanese Occupation. Talking about the movie that was based on his book, Sides said he was glad it hewed closely to the spirit of the original, which wasn't just to give tremendous credit to the Filipinos but to show the horrors of war. He said he was glad the movie didn't have the triumphalist air of many Hollywood World War II movies and the jingoistic one of much of those that sprouted after 9/11. "I was skeptical at first. But they did a good job. They showed that the Filipino guerrillas played a big role. And although the Cabanatuan mission was successful, the backside was dark. Why do we have wars? We come to the realization that war is a terrible thing."

It's a very good reminder from someone who, if he hasn't seen the horrors of war up close and personal, has at least done so up close by way of research. And a most timely one it is, given the parallel the Filipino audience in particular might draw between American and Filipino forces fighting side by side against the fascistic Japanese and American and Filipino forces fighting side by side against the terroristic Abu Sayyaf.

War is hell, not an action movie. In an action movie, one side is good and the other bad, one side is kind and the other cruel. In real life, it's not always so clear who's right or wrong, who's murderous and who's not. In an action movie, the faceless extras are machine-gunned en masse and get ketchup on their shirts. In real life, men, women and children get massacred and die in a huddle.

There is the other side of war, something that's glossed over, or rendered invisible, in action movies and jingoistic rhetoric. The other side of the Pacific War I've just caught glimpses of. The atrocities the Japanese wreaked on their Asian neighbors were real, as Alice Villadolid reminded us in her four-patt series a couple of weeks ago to mark the 60th anniversary of the "Liberation of Manila." The retreating Japanese soldiers went on a killing spree, bayoneting everyone in sight or herding them into churches and burning them alive. But the atrocities inflicted on the Japanese by their enemies, as well indeed as on the Japanese people by their own government, were just as real. The Ground Zero sites in Hiroshima and Nagasaki—they are not called that, but they deserve the name more—are painful and eternal reminders of that.

But numbers numb the mind, they do not prick it. The one image I've gotten about the madness of war from the Japanese viewpoint has been supplied by Haruki Murakami's magnificent "The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle." The father of one of the characters there is a veterinarian who has been assigned to supervise a zoo in Manchuria. As the Chinese troops are driving them out toward the end of the war, he gets an order from his superiors to kill the animals. They can no longer feed them, and turning loose the tigers and other dangerous animals, which are famished and rattling their cages, poses a menace to the community.

Several pages follow about the difficulty and absurdity of massacring an entire zoo population. Particularly as carried out by a platoon that is trying to conserve bullets (the occupation force has run out of ammo, too). The result is both hilarious and poignant. Which is what war is all about, the hilarity issuing from unbelievable horror. People have been known to laugh their heads off hysterically at the height of torture.

There is yet one other image that has driven to me the horror of World War II from Japanese eyes, and that is Studio Ghibli's "The Grave of the Fireflies." Roger Ebert called it "one of the greatest war movies ever made." And the astounding thing about it is that it is an anime! One other critic added to Ebert's assessment, "live or animation."

Directed by Isao Takahata, "Grave" tells the story of a brother and sister who are orphaned during the War. The father is off fighting somewhere in the Pacific and the mother dies in an air raid. They live with a relative for a while, but run away after being routinely oppressed. They live in the outskirts of the city, in a cave, foraging for food variously from wild crops and the kindness of farmers. Both wild crops and the kindness of farmers dry up (it's everything the farmers can do to feed themselves), and the kids comfort themselves by telling stories while waiting for the war to end and their father to come home. The girl never sees the end of the war. She dies of hunger despite the frenzied effort of her older brother to find precious food and medicine.

Talk of poignant, this one pierces you in the heart with an ice pick.

Sides does well to remind us of what the Greek tragedians, notably Euripides, have been saying all this time but which we keep forgetting each time a rabble-rouser takes to the stage to talk of the glory to come from smiting the enemy. None of this is to say that we may not fight back when oppressed or defend ourselves when attacked. All of it is to say that war is a last resort, not a first option.

Pacifism is not soft-minded, it is tough-minded. You cannot find anything softer than putty than the brain of a toughie, or a warmonger.

Security nightmares

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE VALENTINE'S Day bombings in Metro Manila and two Mindanao cities have spurred the revival of the controversial proposal to install a national ID system. This time, the revival is leading into something more ambitious: the enactment of a "comprehensive" internal security act. This expanded plan could cause more nightmares to those who have feared that the installation of the ID system would establish the foundation of a political surveillance apparatus of a police state.

Malacañang's communications director, Silvestre Afable, revealed President Macapagal-Arroyo has given the go-ahead for the drafting of legislation that would incorporate an ID system into the anti-terrorism bills pending in Congress.

Afable said the plan was to consolidate all the bills into an "internal security act that would respond to the threat that we have now," referring to terrorist attacks that have been on the rise and dramatized by the Valentine's Day bombings.

This larger plan refocuses the issue from just an ID system to the wider compass of internal security. The refocusing was necessitated by heightening global concerns over terrorism following the Sept. 11, 2001 bombings in the United States.

Internal security acts have been tightened in democracies amid the war on terrorism. However, they have also been the cornerstone of authoritarian regimes, which are using their draconian security acts as weapons of political repression and not just to defend themselves from terrorist actions. They are, therefore, double-edged weapons that are more likely to damage political liberties than curtail terrorist attacks.

The plan to legislate an internal security act not only subsumes the ID plan but also puts it in the context of the fight against terrorism, which is now the highest security concern of democracies. It shifts the debate away from the narrow focus of the national ID issue.

Opposition to the national ID system has stemmed from concerns that it could be abused by the authorities to curtail citizens' rights and could enable law enforcement agents to launch political witch-hunts on the pretext of fighting criminality.

The ID plan received a boost from the Valentine's Day bombings which prompted local executives to pass a resolution urging Congress to approve the national ID bill that would authorize the installation of the system. Its passage is intended as a remedy to the 1997 Supreme Court decision declaring as unconstitutional the administrative order issued by former President Fidel Ramos establishing the national ID system. The Court held that the order constituted "improper delegation of legislative power."

Local officials are keen on turning their localities into pilot areas to demonstrate the workability of the ID system.

But proponents of the ID scheme have failed to make a strong case for it. In allaying fears that the scheme would not violate the privacy of citizens, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye cited arguments that not only undermined the case for the system, but also tended to show that it was redundant. "We should not be afraid of the ID system," he said. "We cannot see any invasion of privacy since the public would provide the same information that they already gave elsewhere."

Bunye explained that the information that would be required for the ID system are already supplied in applications for driver's license or for membership in the Government Service Insurance System or the Social Security System. Similar information may be found in the Bureau of Internal Revenue and credit cards.

But if information is already available from these sources, what's the point of a national ID system? This is precisely what fuels anxieties that the government has other intentions than building a centralized data base to facilitate transactions between the public and public services.

The other argument is that the ID system would facilitate efforts of authorities to track down criminals. The government's paranoia over terrorism and criminality is matched only by that of the left which fears that the ID system could be used as a weapon to crack down on political activists.

The plan to centralize the data base entails costs that are bound to impede its immediate implementation. Public hearings conducted in Congress have showed that the government would need P1.6 billion to produce a synchronized card to be issued to 45.3 million Filipinos between 15 and 65 years of age, at the cost of P35 a card. There is no provision in the 2005 national budget for ID cards.

Even if security authorities have access to information that would help track down criminals and terrorists, we are not sure this will improve their competence in using intelligence not only to preempt terrorist attacks but also to catch terrorists after their attacks. Until security authorities can use effectively information collected by the ID system in fighting terrorism, all these plans for "synchronized" systems will come to naught.

If the government has failed to make a persuasive case for the ID system, it has to make a stronger case for the internal security act which offers wider opportunities for political abuse than an ID scheme. To make a case, the administration needs a more persuasive interlocutor than Bunye, whose statements have done more damage to the scheme than the stale arguments of those opposing the measure.

In the meantime, let's out the project in the back burner. It distracts public attention and the government's focus from the problem that should be given the highest priority: closing the budget deficit, which can cause more social unrest than the threat of terrorism.

A fun, inclusive prom

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AT THE HEIGHT of the ballroom dancing craze, I wondered why other people my age were waltzing and cha-chaing and swinging all over the dance floor when all I could do were steps known in my day as the "*maski-paps.*" Where did my education in the social arts go wrong?

Then it occurred to me. I never went to a prom, and thus never felt the need to learn any form of social dancing, at least the kind which has steps and sequences, and requires one to hold on to a partner. And for this I have no one to blame but myself. It was I, after all, who wrote an article in the school paper on how "offensive" it would be to hold an elaborate Junior-Senior Prom in the midst of the widespread poverty and social unrest of the early 1970s.

The graduating seniors at the time agreed and said they didn't need a prom to complete their high school experience. But when we became seniors, my batch mates insisted on some form of social bonding, so the juniors hosted instead an "alternative prom" held in a social hall with simple fare served on paper plates and plastic cups, while my classmates' dates spent much of their time ogling the exhibits in a car show held at the same venue.

I had boycotted even this bare-bones alternative, for by that time I was spending my after-school hours marching in the streets and yelling slogans.

These memories of my lost youthful social life were triggered recently when I was invited to an "alternative" prom called "Prom na Prom!" or "Pers Rampa, Okrayin ang Mapangtsugi na Prom" which from my limited knowledge of street talk can be roughly translated to: Let's go friends, let's trash the oppressive prom!

* * *

OPPRESSIVE? A prom? What's not to like about a night of dressing up, pigging out, dancing up a storm and, just maybe, making out?

Well, as explained by the organizers from PiLaKK, an organization of young people from urban poor communities, the prom may have evolved into a "rite of passage" for many young people, but the "unwritten rules" governing this social event have also served to make it unpleasant, if not downright traumatic for some teens.

"There are unwritten prom rules that need to be followed if one doesn't want to be discriminated against or branded a 'weirdo,'" say the "Prom na Prom!" organizers. One ironclad rule is that your date needs to be from the opposite sex. Another is that "appropriate" prom wear means formal and expensive outfits that conform to society's stereotypes.

"Because of this, many young people feel out-of-place and excluded," explains PiLaKK, especially young people whose parents can't afford (or choose not to shoulder) the expenses, those who don't belong to the "popular" crowd or who simply can't find a date for the night, and young gays and lesbians and other minorities. "A young people's personhood is measured and boxed into his or her ability to snare a date," note the youth leaders.

Which is why, they add, prom season can bring with it not just excitement and anticipation, but also "oppressive social concepts like heterosexism, the primacy of beauty and popularity, the privileges of wealth, and the power of peer pressure to make young people conform to society's dictates."

So, in a desire to "promote self-affirmation, responsible relationships and solidarity among young people," PiLaKK and Likhaan, an NGO that promotes reproductive health among community women, decided to sponsor "Prom na Prom!" last Feb. 19 at the College of Social Work and Community Development in the University of the Philippines.

* * *

WOULD this "alternative prom" collapse under the weight of its serious intentions?

I'm glad to report that it didn't, for by the time I arrived at the venue, the air-conditioned hall had already heated up with an estimated 500 youths filling up the dance floor. While I espied a few pairs, mixed and same-sex, most danced in clusters, aping each other's steps.

With other invited judges—Marlea Munez of Wedpro and Jigs Mayuga, host of the defunct TV show "Out!"—I scoured the dance floor in search of winners in such categories as "Best in Gown," "Most Creative Attire," "Gender Bender," and "I Love My Body." To our amusement, we noted that while the young women chose to come in their everyday wear of jeans and tees, it was mostly young men who chose to make an appearance in "traditional" prom wear, in gowns of shimmering fabrics and rich material, preening as they walked back and forth, tossing their filmy shawls and styled hair about.

One young man showed off his well-toned muscles with a shiny see-through floor-length sheath, for which he was appropriately given the "I Love My Body" award. "Most Creative Attire" went to the get-up of a youth leader who had feathers perched on his head, his shirt and ripped pants studded with shiny CDs.

* * *

HIGHLIGHT of the evening was the "cotillion," which featured not pairs of dancers but pairs of youth and adult leaders. After waltzing into the hall, an adult leader "bequeathed" to a young person an item symbolizing his or her "coming of age," from a "magic mirror" that would grant to a young woman the power to see only positive images of herself to a poster of a woman in a sensuous pose symbolizing a young person's embrace of and responsible use of sexuality.

Of course, the evening brought back memories of my own youth and the proms I missed as a consequence of our own turbulent times. I could only wish that back then we activist youth had enough creativity to think of an alternative activity, one that would have taught us a lesson we would only learn years later: that seriousness of purpose does not preclude having fun, and that unless one is having fun, one could not in fact achieve one's purpose. As a saying goes: I would join the revolution, but only if I can dance.

The way to Baguio

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

LAST Friday, the Baguio Country Club began a series of activities to celebrate its centennial. It started with the usual things: a thanksgiving Mass, the unveiling of a bronze National Historical Institute marker at the entrance, and the launching of postage stamps with a picture of the club as it looked a century ago. These were followed by golf tournaments, photo exhibits, eating and drinking to celebrate the club's surviving well into a second century.

The club was established through the initiative of William Cameron Forbes, the governor general of the Philippines who is best remembered for the street in Manila that bears his name but is mispronounced "Por-bes." It is one of the street names sanctified by usage and one that has withstood some rather ill-considered but well-meaning changes. (Other Manila streets now threatened by legislators who want to foster historical amnesia are España and Taft. Now that is worth another column.)

Forbes is also remembered for the upscale gated community in Makati called Forbes Park whose name is pronounced correctly but is sometimes sneeringly referred to as "Pobres Park" because some wags would want to believe that the premiere subdivision in the country is filled with mortgaged lots. From "Por-bes" in Manila to "Pob-res" in Makati—that's a world of difference best tackled by "Cocktales."

I had to look beyond contemporary history and go back 100 years to know more about the Baguio Country Club. I dusted off the two hefty volumes of "The Philippine Islands" by Forbes himself and published in Boston in 1928. I was surprised to find in the first volume, which tackles the history of the Philippines and of course the pillars of American colonial government in the islands—Civil Government, Public Order, Finances, Justice, Health, Public Works, Education, etc.—one whole chapter on Baguio. The reason for this was the justification of the now famous Kennon Road built by an army colonel named L.W.V. Kennon at a cost of well over $2 million dollars, which was widely questioned, because it was believed that this great expense was merely resorted to give a handful of high colonial officials a cool place for rest and relaxation. I'm sure digging into contemporary materials on the building of Kennon Road will make interesting reading.

When people plan a trip to Baguio by land these days (flying is much faster and convenient, but people can't seem to forget some recent high-profile plane crashes), they figure five to six hours of travel. That already takes into account traffic, going around tricycles, trucks and *kuligligs* and making the usual rest and meal stops along the way. We have two choices of routes these days: it is either the Marcos Highway, which is is supposedly longer but faster, or the scenic Kennon Road, which is shorter but takes longer to travel.

In the early 1900s, Forbes said that to get to Baguio from Manila one had to take a boat "to San Fernando, de La Union, and from there by horseback on a very fair trail known as the Naguilian Trail, as it passes through the town of that name. This was a comparatively easy trip, but it involved nearly a day on horseback into the hills, which in itself consumed a whole day."

This is hard to imagine today, but this was the same route taken by William Howard Taft who made it up to Baguio on horseback. There is a famous photograph of the heavy, smiling Taft on his horse and an equally famous quotation uttered when he reported to US Secretary of War Elihu Root that he made it up to Baguio in one piece, "but I'm afraid, I can't say the same for the horse."

A better road was planned and it was then known as the Benguet Road. It took about 4,000 men to work their way up, blasting a trail out of the mountains and paving these into what later became Kennon Road. Forbes wrote:

"As the Benguet Road began to creep into the hills, a stage line was inaugurated from the northern end of the railroad at Dagupan through the province of Pangasinan to the end of the road, from which point the remainder of the trip was made up the Bued River. During the construction of the road, stages passed from camp to camp of road-builders, until finally, at a point called 'Camp Four,' all passengers had to take to horses and follow a new rail which zigzagged up the mountain-side on an extremely steep grade, where it was often necessary to walk, leading the horses. The trail reached the high levels at a place called Loakan, from which point seven miles of delightfully cool riding on easy grades brought one into the site of the future city of Baguio."

Even when Taft left the Philippines to assume the post of secretary of war in Washington, he was keen to see the completion of this road up to Baguio.

Today it is easier to get to Baguio, but then a lot has changed from the Shangrila they described a century ago. The scent of pine that used to mark the ascent and entry into the city is no more. As a matter of fact, there is even a concrete pine tree on Session Road leading to the latest marker of progress, SM Shopping Mall.

Looking at Baguio's past will help us appreciate the city and hope to preserve its climate and character.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

AIDS: low simmer or slow boil?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

FOR the past few days, groups doing HIV/AIDS work in the Philippines—government, non-government, local and international—have been buzzing with activity, everyone busy preparing for a big AIDS meeting, now going on at the Mandarin Oriental.

No less than Pieter Piot is attending the meeting, he being the head of UNAIDS, an inter-agency body coordinating HIV/AIDS work throughout the world. The summit is co-sponsored by the Swedish Embassy and the Asian Development Bank.

I was asked to present a paper at the meeting but had to decline because of previous engagements. To make up for this, I promised my friends at UNAIDS a column summarizing my concerns around HIV/AIDS in the country.

Let me start by explaining why there's so much international interest in the Philippines. For several years now, AIDS experts have been intrigued by the fact that HIV—now affecting more than 40 million people worldwide—hasn't gone on a rampage in the Philippines. "Low and slow" is the way the epidemic is described in the Philippines. The Department of Health's AIDS Registry reports fewer than 3,000 cases. No doubt, there are many more unreported cases, but even taking under-reporting into account, the estimate is that less than one percent of the adult population is infected. Compare that to a prevalence rate of about 2 percent in Thailand and, in some southern African countries, of up to 33 percent—yes, 1 of every 3 adults.

Ideally then, we need to keep the epidemic at this low and slow level, because if it goes out of control, we know from the experience of other countries that the costs will be disastrous, adding to our already long list of economic and social woes.

Saliva and mosquitoes

It's clear that the epidemic in the Philippines may be low and slow because as early as the 1980s, shortly after HIV/AIDS was recognized as an international problem, our government and NGOs began to act. Some readers will remember intensive HIV/AIDS information campaigns in the past, with a deluge of seminars, workshops and educational materials.

Unfortunately, our efforts have slackened. These days, we rarely hear of HIV/AIDS except for the boring monthly updates reporting new infections, or an occasional sensational report in the paper of some sex worker having tested positive and gone into hiding.

The result? Public awareness levels of HIV seem to be on the downturn. The other week, in a research methods class I teach to seniors at the University of the Philippines, I used HIV/AIDS as an example for possible survey questions. When I asked the students if they thought HIV could be transmitted by mosquitoes, almost half of them actually thought this was possible.

The 2003 National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS), with a sampling of almost 14,000 women and some 5,000 men, gives us very alarming statistics concerning HIV/AIDS awareness. Nationwide, some 95 percent of respondents have heard about AIDS. But this awareness level varies across income groups and regions. For example, in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), only 75 percent of women and 51 percent of men had heard of HIV/AIDS.

Remember these figures apply only to awareness, meaning "having heard" of HIV/AIDS. When you get to specific knowledge about HIV, we have even more disturbing findings. Some 40 percent of women and 43 percent of men, for example, believe AIDS can be transmitted by mosquito bites. About 20 percent of both men and women believe AIDS can be transmitted by supernatural means.

Dangerous denial

The National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) didn't ask people if they knew the difference between HIV and AIDS, but I've observed that even among university professors, there's still vagueness about the two terms. I'm not about to take chances, so let me explain the difference here: HIV means Human Immunodeficiency Virus, the microbe that causes HIV disease. Once infected with HIV, a person's immune system comes under attack but it does not necessarily mean he or she has AIDS or Acute Immunodefiency Syndrome. Without access to drugs to fight the virus, a person will, after several years, develop AIDS. But during the years of infection without AIDS—a time without any signs or symptoms—the person can pass the virus on to other people.

I'm mentioning all this because people continue to look for "signs" of HIV infection as if they existed. Sex workers, for example, will insist that they don't need to use condoms since they can tell if their customers are "clean." Conversely, the male clients of these sex workers will insist they don't need to use condoms if they get women from bars and beer houses that don't have foreign customers.

Periodically, we'll hear some radio talk show commentator calling for widespread testing for HIV. Again, this reflects ignorance about HIV/AIDS. The government already requires "entertainment workers" to be tested for HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), for which they're issued a health certificate. These certificates only lull people into a sense of complacency. The tests for HIV only detect antibodies to the virus produced after an infection occurs. The problem is that there may be a delay of several months before the antibodies are produced. This means a person may have already been infected but still test negative.

Discrimination

Ignorance about HIV/AIDS leads to denial about the risks of HIV/AIDS, and risky behavior. The NDHS figures show that people not only had misconceptions about the way HIV is spread but about prevention methods as well. For example, only 48 percent of women and 62 percent of men knew that condoms could prevent HIV.

Discrimination comes with denial. We dismiss HIV/AIDS as a problem "only" for sex workers and their customers. Or, if we hear about the rising infection rates among overseas Filipino workers, we think mainly of entertainers and seafarers. The reality is that HIV infections among overseas workers have been reported, too, among domestic helpers and nurses, and locally, among housewives, many of whom have been faithful to their husbands and who felt no need to protect themselves even if they suspected their spouses' many infidelities. As the expression goes, it takes two to be monogamous.

Discrimination drives HIV/AIDS underground, something to be discussed in whispers. And if someone does get infected, he or she will choose to be quiet about it, maybe even to remain in denial, because of the stigma around HIV. Our experiences in the Philippines and overseas have shown clearly that in a more accepting environment, care and support for people with HIV make them part of the solution, rather than exacerbating the problem.

Given the way denial and discrimination can fuel the spread of HIV, I wouldn't be surprised if the local epidemic has moved from a low simmer to a slow boil.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Behind MMDA's Bayani Fernando

I GUESS most will agree with me that motorists who want order, safety, cleanliness and discipline on our Metro roads will hate to see Chair Bayani Fernando of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority step down.

Fernando has brought back order to our roads. He gave back to the motorists what should be for motorists and to the pedestrians what truly belongs to the pedestrians. His solutions are simple and effective and his "retain-if-it-works, change-if-it-doesn't method" is practical.

Motorists deserve some respite from years of chaos on our roads. Fernando should never yield to calls for his ouster since these are definitely coming from interest groups that thrive on disorder and chaos.

Definitely, there is still a lot of room for improvement. But driving through the major thoroughfares, one will notice that these have changed a lot for the better since Fernando assumed the top MMDA post. Kudos to Fernando.

Keep it up! Contrary to what some groups claim, the majority of the people are behind you and your good work.

—ROLAND LIGGAYU,
rliggayu@telusplanet.net

What justice for martial law victims means

THIS is in reaction to the editorial "Strange bedfellows." (PDI, 02/11/05) Obviously, our position was either misunderstood or taken out of context.

Our stand is perfectly clear. The Marcos estate or wealth—that is not ill-gotten—must be used to compensate the martial law victims. In our faxed statement to your paper titled "TFDP to Marcos Jr.: You Cannot Wash Your Hands of This!" we clearly stated that it was wrong for Gov. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to say that he has no responsibility to compensate the victims of martial law abuses."

And we never meant to "trivialize" the sufferings of those who joined the anti-dictatorship struggle. In fact, we are maintaining the Martial Law Museum (Museum of Courage and Resistance) to honor and commit to the national memory their heroism and sacrifices, for which no amount of monetary compensation will be enough.

We respect the Supreme Court decision to give back Marcos' ill-gotten wealth to the Philippine government to be used for agrarian reform. But we also support the efforts of legislators in Congress to compensate martial law victims through legislation. But the government should not limit itself to compensating the victims with money from the ill-gotten wealth. The government's responsibility to the victims is to give them full restorative justice, which is not just monetary compensation. Restorative justice takes many forms—recognition, apology, reparation and societal reform to ensure that injustice does not happen again. Reparation may take the form of rehabilitation, restitution or compensation.

We call on the government to officially recognize the human rights violations during martial law—say, by putting up a national marker for the victims. Official recognition also necessitates the prosecution of the perpetrators of human rights violations and plunder during martial law. It sullies our struggle for the restoration of democracy that the perpetrators of injustice during the authoritarian rule still wield so much economic and political power today. Should not the government look at why Aberca et al. vs Ver is gathering dust at the Court of Appeals all these years? And there are many other cases.

Or, perhaps, the government can allocate a budget for the creation of a Truth Commission that will comprehensively hear and document the horrors of martial law so that it can be a part of the memory of the nation.

Restorative justice and all these would be facilitated 'or achieved if the powers and resources (including funds) of the Philippine state are mobilized and used to ensure justice for the victims.

For us, and here we agree with Conrado de Quiros—"...victims do not owe government for designating a part of the Marcos loot to them, government owes it to them.... justice demands compensation." (PDI, 2/10/05)

—AURORA A. PARONG, M.D.M,
executive director,
Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, 45 St. Mary St.,
Cubao, Quezon City

All politics, no will

LIKE one of your letter-writers, I am afraid the cases of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs officials who failed the "lifestyle check" have been whitewashed. They steal and go unpunished, keeping the loot for themselves to enjoy, while we, ordinary mortals, have to make do with salaries far below decent living standards.

The Philippines is poor because of these thieves in government. Worse, they spend their loot (which could have gone to building roads, bridges and other infrastructure projects) on palatial homes, condominiums, flashy cars and SUVs.

I dare President Macapagal-Arroyo, Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo to band together and seriously go after these thieves, putting them behind bars. Justice Davide can do a lot to speed up trials of cases.

There is very little time left. We have to work and work hard. It just takes political will to do it. And that is the big problem: all politics, no will!

—NOEMIE F. DURAN,
1840 Agoncillo St., Manila

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Win a cellcard daily and a cellphone weekly!

Tanong ng Bayan

INQ TV

ABC

I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipiliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot.

Ang premyo:

Cellcard kada araw!

Cellphone kada linggo!

This week's prize

I-type lang ang:
INQTV < inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <edad>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, at ipadala sa 2910. Winners will be identified on InqTV ,Thursdays on ABC.

Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 4pm

text 2910

May saysay pa ba ang EDSA I?

For Sun, Smart and Globe subscribers

Congrats, Lydia Pocot ng Manila!
Nanalo ka ng P500 load!

"oo dhi dun naibik ang mlayng pagpili ng liders ng atng bnsa o naibik elksyn, di n 1 man-rule & may mlyang pma2hyag n atng nae2njoy"

Tumawag lamang sa 8978808 at hanapin si Leslie Perez o si Dennis Leung.

Cellcard kada araw, cellphone kada linggo! **Text na!**

Globally, over 48M children are not registered and 2.6 of them are Filipinos—denied of their right to a name and nationality, deprived of their other basic rights.

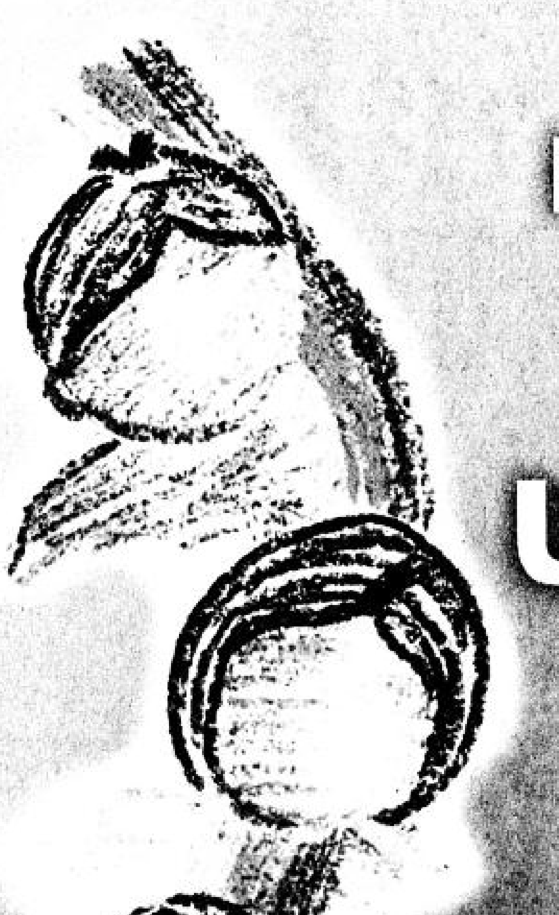
Pangalan ko, Karapatan ko!
(My Name, My Right)

Universal Birth Registration

Plan's global call in ensuring 100% registration of all children at birth

Plan is an international, humanitarian, child-centered development organization working in 62 countries and united around the needs of the world's children.

Plan
Be a part of it.



InqBox

Question of the Week

Do you think the proposed national I.D. system will be useful in the fight against terrorism?

Win this "Inquirer mug

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's InqBox *wiL each receiv an "Inquirer Mug! U*

Key in inquirer box name/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
(Maximum of 160 characters)

"Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER *Northe[illegible]n*

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Conservationists lead drive to save 'kalaw'

THE KALAW or rufous hornbill, a threatened species, is an enduring symbol of the cooperation, unity and loyalty of Ibanags and Itawes in Cagayan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Estanislao Caldez
Peñablanca, Cagayan

THE IBANAGS and Itawes in Peñablanca, Cagayan used to hear the chirping of the *kalaw* or rufous hornbill so often that they started expecting its familiar sound at specific hours of the day.

The familiar "*kaaaw, kaaaw, kaaaw*" of the kalaw (*Buceros hydrocorax*) would wake residents up at 6 a.m., signal lunch at noon, and would be heard again at 2 p.m. and, finally, during the Angelus at 6 p.m.

But poaching and destruction of forests in the town, the kalaw's natural habitat, had driven the bird deeper into the mountains.

Alarmed at the fast rate of destruction of the bird's habitat, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Conservation International, the University of Kent in United Kingdom, and the United States-based Rare Center for Conservation have joined hands to save the kalaw and its habitat.

DENR officials said it was important to involve the community's effort in the drive because the kalaw symbolized the Ibanags' and Itawes' values of loyalty, unity and cooperation.

Antonio Principe, DENR director for Cagayan Valley, called the kalaw the "very symbol of the cooperative family lives of the Ibanags and Itawes."

Melania Dirain, ecosystem management specialist of the community environment and natural resources office (Cenro) in the capital city of Tuguegarao, said the project would be dubbed the "pride campaign" because they wanted residents to appreciate that the kalaw was a source of local pride.

DENR officials said the town's famous Callao Caves, a major tourist attraction in Cagayan, derived its name from the kalaw, whose population used to abound in the Peñablanca protected landscape and seascape.

The kalaw is culturally attached to the people of Peñablanca and has been immortalized in the town's official seal.

Through the campaign, they wanted to deepen the public's understanding of the value of biodiversity and use the kalaw as a symbol of conservation, Dirain said.

She said the campaign, tested in about 30 countries, uses a combination of grassroots and mass marketing techniques to generate support, enthusiasm and participation from all stakeholders for species and ecosystem protection.

DENR officials said the project would be implemented over a period of more than two years through a $50,000 fund. The money will come from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), a joint initiative of the Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Japanese government, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank.

According to its website, the CEPF provides "strategic assistance to non-government organizations, community groups and other civil society partners to help safeguard the earth's biodiversity hot spots."

"A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation," the CEPF said.

Hornbill

The rufous hornbill is a "near threatened" species endemic to Luzon and the island province of Marinduque.

It is the largest among all species of hornbills (sometimes called the Great Philippine Hornbill). The features of male and female hornbills are alike but species vary in size, color and shape of the casque (the upper portion of its head).

The kalaw's feathers in its breast and upper belly are black. Young hornbills have white heads and their wings are black or light brown.

The bill is red with a large flat casque extending to a point to the tip of the bill. Male hornbills are larger and have longer wingspan than females.

Hornbills are omnivorous but most subsist on fruits. They have long bills that help them collect food. Their broad rounded wings are good for short but not for extended flights. The casque is an indicator of age and status of hornbills.

Monogamous

Hornbills are known to be monogamous. They breed in existing holes or crevices in trees during April, July, August and November. The female seals herself inside the holes and incubates her eggs there.

Sometimes, the male helps protect the female in her nest by blocking the nest's entrance with mud, food and droppings, leaving a small hole where food could be passed on to the female.

Studies show hornbills do this to protect the female and the chicks from predators. Incubation of eggs ranges from 23 to 46 days.

Hornbills also share parenting duties in feeding their chicks. They traverse in small family groups in forests. They are often seen foraging or resting in the forest canopy and flying, alternately gliding and flapping, across valleys and mountain slopes.

Cultural symbol

DENR officials said birds perform different functions that help maintain the health and diversity of the surrounding environment.

They can act as pollinators and they help control or decrease the population of insects. They also add aesthetic value to a specific area.

They can determine the health of the country's forests because they need a number of old trees for nesting and for them to sustain a viable breeding population.

With the trees being cut for timber, firewood and charcoal in Peñablanca, DENR officials said the future of the survival of hornbills and the Philippine eagle is bleak. They said the diminishing population of hornbills only mirrored the prevailing destruction of their habitat.

Love for environment

To the deeply religious Ibanags and Itawes, the kalaw is no ordinary bird because it represents their love for the environment and pride for their unique natural treasures.

Dirain said Peñablanca residents and officials chose the kalaw to represent their vision for a healthy and sustainable environment.

Locals said the cooperative spirit of hornbills in feeding their young and the seemingly close-knit relationship among them are very typical in Itawes and Ibanag families.

The DENR has identified illegal logging, firewood gathering, charcoal making and kaingin (slash-and-burn farming) as major threats to the protected area of Peñablanca and has adopted ways to stop these practices to save the town's enduring symbol.

In Baguio, watch where you step

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

TOURISTS have been tripping over Baguio City's sidewalk potholes for decades. Few have bothered to complain because they tell themselves that these inelegant flaws are part of its charm.

But as they troop to see the 10th Baguio Flower Festival this weekend, they will be falling on their knees for far more expensive reasons.

The sidewalks of downtown Session Road are now paved with gold—artistic gold.

On one end of the historic street, where the second Philippine Assembly convened at the turn of the 20th century, is a striking Asian *mandala* embedded in the sidewalk.

The elementally intricate piece, which could fetch as high as P20,000, according to some art collectors, was designed by Kawayan de Guia, last year's Philip Morris Juror's Choice and son of filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik.

Kawayan, with the help of a core group of artists, ranging from the veteran (alternative musician Shant Verdu) to the impressionable (several street children), created eight stars made of shattered bathroom and carpentry tiles that radiate from dragon-like tendrils of a central sun.

Cross the street and you will stumble on a pastoral scene.

Sonny Balanga, former president of the Baguio Arts Guild, and lensman Carlo Garcia grafted together a black-tiled rendition of an old countryside Catholic church at the foot of the long staircase that leads up to the Baguio Cathedral. Small footprints snake their way to the black church.

Erlyn Alcantara, a professional curator, said it would be hard to quantify the exact value of 167 murals and mosaic paintings that were used to patch up the sidewalks in less than a month.

Kidlat, the reluctant brains behind this year's Panagbenga flower festival, had volunteered Baguio's rich population of artists to fill up the potholes, said Benedicto Alhambra, city administrator.

Sculptor Kigao Rosimo gave modest, if stylishly consistent, pieces, filling up small potholes with images of ethereal black spirits rising up to a red-hued sun.

Kigao, Shant, Balanga, Garcia, painter Allan Manalastas and Guiller Lagac, a visual and installation artist, collaborated on several landscape pieces which Session habitués collectively call "Lupa (earth)" because of the dominant brick tile material.

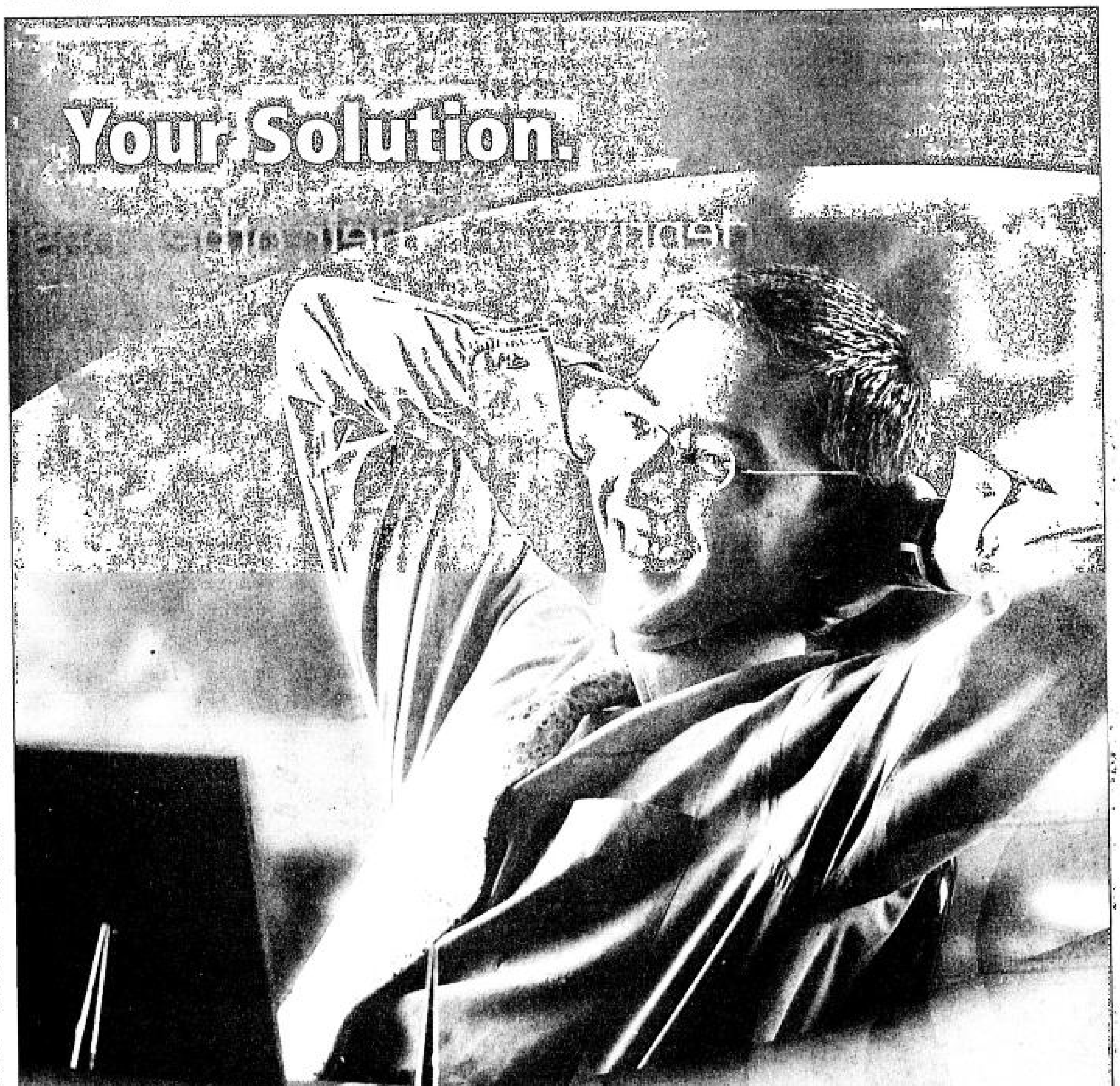
Kabunian de Guia, Kidlat's youngest son, introduced Pablo Picasso's sardonicism to the Baguio public.

Known for his wit because of an anti-George Bush toilet painting that graces Kidlat's gallery, Kabunian gave startled passersby two smiling faces that share a single eye, which smart alecks simply call "Picasso."

Kawayan said "all walks of life" literally helped build the murals. "We had street children and, at one point, an [unwashed and consistently giggling] street vagrant, helped out," he said.

"We are reluctant about naming the art pieces," he admitted, "because they may not all last."

Subsidized with a P30,000 grant by the city government, the artists relied on carpentry scraps and donations from residents.


Your Solution.

Equitable PCI Bank Cash Management

At Equitable PCI Bank, we're here to help your business reach its full potential. Let Equitable PCI Bank Cash Management strengthen your core competencies by delivering value added solutions to simplify your business.

Products like FASTAccess, FASTPay, FASTCollect, PDC Warehousing and FASTWrite are made available to you anytime, anywhere through our extensive nationwide network. You can leave the day to day cash flow headaches to us so you can focus on what's more important — your business.

Equitable PCI Bank Cash Management. Just one of the many reasons that make banking with us a most pleasant experience every time. Because all we do is all for you to be your Bank of Choice.

Equitable PCI BANK
Your Bank of Choice

Contact our Call Center at 84-911 (Metro Manila)
PLDT 1-800-188-84-911 and Digitel 1-800-333-84-911 (Provincial)
visit www.equitablepcib.com

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Across the NATION
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Electricity to cost 37¢ more in North

By Peter La. Julian and Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Electricity is expected to cost 37 centavos more following the approval by the Energy Regulatory Commission of the power adjustment being sought by the National Power Corp.

As always, electric utilities are expected to file their petitions to increase their power rate.

But a petition filed by a private electric company here to decrease the power rate, if approved, would be a boon to La Union consumers.

It could also set a precedent nationwide.

"We are in a unique situation because there has never been a petition for power rate reduction," Jerry Parlan, La Union Electric Co. (Lueco) general manager, told the INQUIRER.

It was the second time that Lueco would petition for rate adjustment. In 1986, the firm sought and succeeded in increasing its power rate.

Parlan said the firm would be buying cheaper electricity from Mirant (Philippines) Energy Corp. a Fil-American firm based in Sual, Pangasinan.

"It will be P0.04 per kilowatt-hour lower than that of Napocor which has been supplying our power needs since 1983," he said.

He added that Lueco has entered into a 10-year power purchase agreement with Mirant to supply the cheap electricity.

The P0.04 discount will be passed on to the 31,000 consumers here and in San Juan and Bauang towns. The La Union Electric Cooperative, based in Aringay town, supplies electricity to the other 18 towns.

Lueco's rate is P7 per kwh and the discount would translate to P400,000 in monthly savings or roughly P5 million annually for consumers.

Contract

Parlan said Lueco has a three-million kWh per month contract with Napocor but the former has a monthly 10-million kwh consumption that it all buys from the power firm.

"We can source the uncontracted seven million kWh elsewhere," Parlan said, saying that the transition supply contract for the supply of electricity that Lueco signed with Napocor in August 2000 will expire in June 2005.

He said Lueco would be getting 100 percent of its power requirement from Mirant after June.

"The Electric Power Industry Reform Act allows us to get our electricity anywhere we want to," Parlan said.

The law, enacted in 2001, protects the interest of consumers, as it specifies that all distribution utilities are obligated "to supply electricity in the least cost manner to its captive market."

Lueco's petition for power reduction rests on the contract with Mirant, which must be approved by the ERC. All documents have been submitted and the hearing of Lueco's application for approval of the contract has been set either in Bauang or in San Fernando.

Second thoughts

However, Parlan expressed fears that the five-man ERC board might have second thoughts on the contract with Mirant, which was approved by the Lueco board last Dec 5.

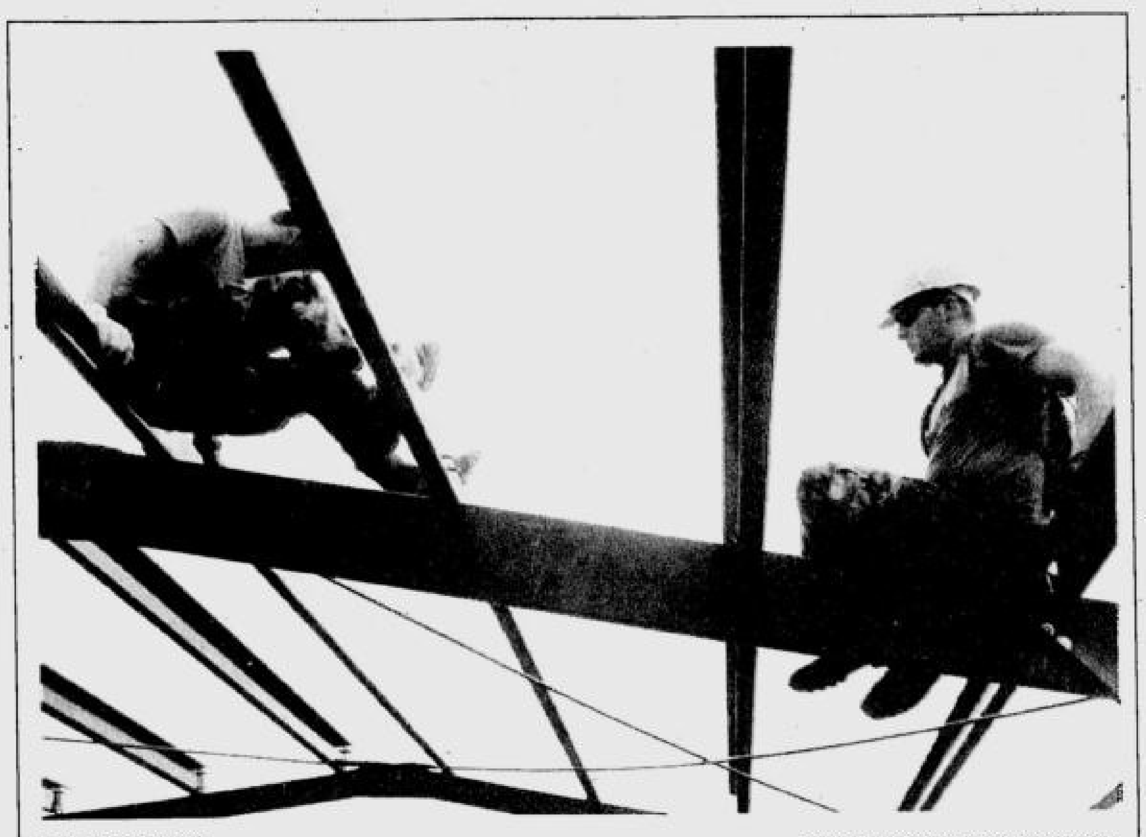
"They worry that (its approval) might have dire consequences," he said.

In Laoag City, power consumers could gripe in vain because the local power company there could not reduce its electricity rates at will without any adjustment coming from its power suppliers.

Members of the Ilocos Norte provincial board repeatedly asked the Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative (Inec) to either reduce its power rates or eliminate the so-called "pass-through charges" that Inec is collecting from consumers on top of their power consumption.

The pass-through charges—ranging from generation, transmission and system loss costs—are additional payments that Inec collects for and pays to the government and to its power providers.

These charges form part of the new billing statement under the unbundled rates that consumers have been receiving since late last year.



BALIKATAN
DELFIN MALLARI/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
American and Filipino soldiers in the Balikatan '05 temporarily rest their guns to work as masons and carpenters in the construction of school buildings in San Buenaventura village in Luisiana, Laguna.

Log retrieval in Aurora, Quezon messy

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The retrieval by government agencies of logs and lumber washed down by killer landslides in Aurora and Quezon in November and December last year was "unsystematic" and, at worst, "anomalous," breeding a buy-and-sell trade, if not outright timber poaching, the INQUIRER learned.

"*Magulo*. The process is not clear," Fr. Antonio Evangelio, parish priest of Dingalan, Aurora, said of the retrieval process by the Natural Resources Development Corp., the corporate arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

During the Dingalan municipal council session on Monday, Evangelio said he learned that the NRDC had contracted Kasibu, a sawmill company, to gather the drifted logs and centralize these at the old Yama sawmill compound at the boundary of Barangays Aplaya and Poblacion.

He said residents and barangay officials themselves were involved in the recovery of logs that littered the shorelines of that part of the Pacific Ocean and along rivers in the province.

The drifted logs, he noted, were being obtained in a "hide-and-seek" manner, indicating that timber poaching was not being done this time far up in the mountains but where the logs had rolled.

Evangelio said there are also traders, among them a certain Gatdula, who buy the logs from the residents. The logs are, in turn, brought to the Dingalan town center. There, the logs are sold to the NRDC, he said.

Ed Pujeda, chair of the Justice and Peace Action Group in Dingalan, said 1,000 families in Barangay Umiray at the boundary of Dingalan and General Nakar in Quezon were being given P2,000 each.

Condition

The amount was given on one condition: That every family waive its right to get 2,000 board feet of wood for rebuilding damaged homes.

A certain Henry of the NRDC was behind this scheme, Pujeda told the INQUIRER, citing the reports of the affected families.

Ricardo Calderon, DENR forestry chief in Central Luzon and coordinator of the DENR-NRDC inventory and retrieval committee, denied these reports.

"Contrary to the report of Sen. Jamby Madrigal, all the logs are properly accounted for," Calderon said.

He said the inventories done in December and January accounted for the following logs found on shorelines and inland:

Aurora—uprooted trees, 7,996 pieces or 8,473.14 cubic meters; tops and branches, 90,500 cm; Quezon—uprooted trees, 13,573 pieces or 12,343.42 cm; tops and branches, 32,277.25 cm; flitches, 1,338 pieces or 88,203 board feet.

As of Feb. 21, Calderon said the DENR-NRDC team had retrieved 4,485 pieces or 3,265.38 cm in Aurora and 873 pieces or 665.15 cm in Quezon.

He said the retrieval operations were still ongoing. But the process was slower in Quezon.

Towing the logs to Dingalan, some 100 km north of General Nakar, was hampered by strong waves, he said.

Calderon defended Kasibu, saying it was the "only legitimate sawmill operator" in Real, Quezon.

Reports received by Evangelio said Kasibu is based in Isabela and is owned by a military official.

Calderon clarified that NRDC was in charge of retrieval along the shorelines.

The local governments, on the other hand, are responsible for the drifted logs in rivers and other inland water bodies.

"Dito na po tayo sa gamot na may puso!"

Mel Tiangco

PHAREX

Ang galing sa katawan. Ang galing ng presyo.

Naiintindihan ng Pharex Medicines, gawa ng Pascual Laboratories, ang mga pangangailangan ninyo. Kaya handog nito ang mga gamot na magaling sa katawan sa abot-kayang halaga. Pharex, ang gamot na may puso.

Talagang magaan sa bulsa ang PHAREX!

Generic Name	PHAREX Price	Ibang Brand	SAVE!
Antibiotic			
PHAREX Amoxicillin 250 mg cap	₱ 4.40	₱ 8.00	₱ 3.60
PHAREX Amoxicillin 500 mg cap	6.85	14.00	7.15
PHAREX Cefalexin 250 mg cap	11.58	19.15	7.57
PHAREX Cefalexin 500 mg cap	17.80	35.50	17.70
PHAREX Ciprofloxacin 250 mg tab	28.20	56.00	27.80
PHAREX Ciprofloxacin 500 mg tab	39.00	77.75	38.75
PHAREX Cloxacillin 250 mg cap	11.50	24.25	12.75
PHAREX Cloxacillin 500 mg cap	16.80	46.25	29.45
PHAREX Cotrimoxazole 400/80 mg tab	8.70	15.60	6.90
PHAREX Cotrimoxazole 800/160 mg tab	16.00	27.50	11.50
PHAREX Erythromycin 250 mg tab	8.10	19.50	11.40
PHAREX Erythromycin 500 mg tab	14.60	32.50	17.90
Cough & Cold Preparation			
PHAREX Carbocisteine 500 mg cap	6.80	12.35	5.55

Generic Name	PHAREX Price	Ibang Brand	SAVE!
Vitamins			
PHAREX Vit. B1+B6+B12 tab	₱ 2.40	₱ 6.75	₱ 4.35
NEW PHAREX Vitamin Syrup for Kids 60 ml bottle	44.25	70.00	25.75
NEW PHAREX Vitamins + Minerals tab	3.68	8.50	4.82
Anti-Cholesterol			
NEW PHAREX Simvastatin			
10 mg tab	13.50	19.75	6.25
20 mg tab	20.25	28.50	8.25
40 mg tab	27.00	34.50	7.50
Anti- Diabetic			
NEW PHAREX Metformin 500 mg tab	3.25	9.50	6.25

Also available: *ANTIBIOTIC* PHAREX Cefaclor • PHAREX Chloramphenicol • PHAREX Norfloxacin • PHAREX Ofloxacin *AMOEBICIDE* PHAREX Metronidazole *ANTI-TB* PHAREX Ethambutol • PHAREX Isoniazid • PHAREX Pyrazinamide • PHAREX Rifampicin *ANTI-ASTHMA* PHAREX Salbutamol *ANTI-EMETIC* PHAREX Metoclopramide *COUGH & COLD PREPARATION* PHAREX Bromhexine • PHAREX Guaifenesin *ANTI-ULCERANT* PHAREX Ranitidine *ANTI-INFLAMMATORY / ANTI-ALLERGY* PHAREX Hydrocortisone *ANALGESICS / ANTIPYRETIC* PHAREX Mefenamic

Plus 20% Discount for Senior Citizens

Available at
Drugstores Association of the Philippines
member drugstores

PHAREX Medicines
Presyong Tapat.
Alagang Sapat.

Para laging magaling!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Ex-NPA rebs suspects in slaying of student in Negros Occidental

BACOLOD CITY—Alleged members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army were believed to be behind the killing of a student and wounding of two others in Talisay City, Negros Occidental, last Friday.

Vincent Moran, 20, died from two bullet wounds after he and his companions were fired upon by armed men in Sitio Catamnan 2, Barangay Concepcion, Talisay, about 7.3 km north of here.

His two companions were also wounded. They were Dennis Pusin and Jerry Amakan.

Senior Supt. Charles Calima, Negros Occidental provincial police director, said some witnesses told the police that RPA-ABB members operating in Talisay City were behind the attack.

RPA-ABB national commander Carapali Lualhati said they were already investigating the attack and were coordinating with Calima and Jose Maria Valencia, local monitoring team leader of the Joint Enforcement Monitoring Committee.

The JEMC has been tasked with supervising the four-year-old peace agreement signed between the government and the RPA-ABB and its political wing—Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas.

Police investigation showed that Moran, Pusin and Amacan were riding a motorcycle when they were flagged down by a group of armed men at about 2:30 a.m. on Feb. 18 in Sitio Catamnan 2.

But Moran, who was driving the motorcycle, sped off, apparently out of fear for their safety, said Chief Insp. Jerry Bartolome, Talisay City police chief.

After passing 50 meters from the first group of armed men who had flagged them down, Moran and his two companions were fired upon by another group of unidentified persons, Bartolome said.

Moran suffered two gunshot wounds in his chest. The bullets pierced his body and hit Pusin in the left shoulder, said Calima.

Amacan suffered only minor contusions in different parts of his body. He, however, was still in a state of shock as of yesterday, said Bartolome.

He said he was coordinating with Valencia on what action to be taken against the perpetrators although they planned to file murder and frustrated murder charges against the gunmen. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Intensity 5.2 quake felt in Masbate, Bicol areas

LEGAZPI CITY—An intensity 5.2 tectonic earthquake occurred near the vicinity of Masbate province at around 11:20 a.m. yesterday.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) here said the epicenter of the earthquake was located 60 kilometers north and 48 degrees west of the main island of Masbate.

Resident volcanologist Eduardo Laguerta said the movement of the Sibuyan sea fault could be the possible source of the shallow earthquake.

Intensity 4 was felt at Masbate City while Legazpi City in Albay, Irosin in Sorsogon, Naga City in Camarines Sur, Roxas City in Capiz and Guinyangan, Quezon, recorded 3. Intensity 2 was felt in Lucban, Quezon and intensity 1 at Cainta, Rizal and Manila.

Laguerta said they were not expecting the earthquake to generate aftershocks.

No tsunami warnings were raised although the epicenter of the earthquake was under water.

A tsunami generated by one of the world's strongest earthquakes off Sumatra has killed hundreds of thousands of people in countries in South Asia. *Jed Ll. Bacason and Leo Martin B. Ganace, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Senator proposes to tax text messages ₱1 more for education

BAGUIO CITY—It's another tax proposal but Sen. Richard Gordon says this one makes a difference because people will know where their taxes are going.

Gordon, during a press conference at the Baguio Country Club here on Friday, said he has drafted the Philippine Education Revitalization Act that will focus on solving the country's education-related problems.

Under his proposal, another P1 will be added to the cost of sending text messages through mobile phones. The revenue, Gordon said, will go to a special fund that can be tapped by the Department of Education.

He said the proposal, which he called "educational text" or "text for education," also includes the creation of an advisory body to help the DepEd determine priority needs.

"Education is in disarray but no one is solving it. We are not focused. We keep on talking about the problems but we don't do anything about them," he said.

Gordon said an average of 300 million text messages amounting to P300 million are sent in the country daily. In a year, this could amount to P73 billion, he said.

Gordon said if the tax measure is passed, text messages are expected to go down to around 200 million, but this will not affect the amount to be generated because the cost of sending messages will be higher.

He said the advisory body would be asked to issue regular reports on its accomplishments and explain where the money generated was spent.

"Hard sacrifices must be made by everyone. Imagine what P73 billion could do for education," Gordon said.

He said the country lacks at least 69,000 classrooms, 40,000 teachers and more than 55,000 textbooks.

Because of the lack of classrooms, it is not unusual for 70 students to be cramped in a small classroom, he said.

Gordon also said many of the country's teachers are unqualified and this contributes to the material deficiencies aggravating the problem in the education sector.

"How can a student study in a cramped and noisy classroom, if he has no food, if there are no classrooms, no books, no blackboards, and if the teacher is unqualified?" he asked.

He said he was hoping that through additional funds for education, students in public elementary and high schools would be provided with free food and books.

"Then children will go to school. And we will have better graduates 10 to 20 years from now. This is telling the world that we are back," he said.

Aside from scholarships, Gordon also plans to sponsor bills that will increase the salaries of nurses, doctors and teachers. *Donna Demetillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF THE TENDER OFFER PERIOD OF GLOBE TELECOM INC.

This notice makes reference to Globe's previously announced offer to purchase one share for every fifteen shares (Tender Offer) of the outstanding common stock of Globe (par value P50) from all shareholders of record as of 10 February 2005, at a price of P950 per share.

Due to the declaration of 25 February 2005 as a public non-working holiday, Globe hereby gives notice of extension of the Tender Offer Period by one business day from 2 March 2005 to 3 March 2005. Stockholders may thus tender shares to the designated Depositary, ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc., until **3:00 pm of March 3, 2005.** All other provisions of the Terms and Conditions distributed to Globe Telecom, Inc. shareholders remain unchanged.

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR COSMETIC SURGERY (PSCS)

Announces **ONE DAY LIVE SURGICAL WORKSHOP**

DR. CORAZON COLLANTES-JOSE
President

DR. MARIANO AGCAOILI
Chairman - Organizing Commitee

THEMES:
Minimally Invasive Suspension Suture Techniques combined with Classical Techniques (Facial, Neck, Breast, & Buttocks) and Latest Technology in Hair Transplantation

DATE:
February 27, 2005, Sunday

VENUE:
Delos Santos Medical Center
201 E. Rodriguez Avenue Quezon City

REGISTRATION FEES:

Early Registration:	P 4,000.00
On-Site Registration:	P 5,000.00
Foreign Participants:	US$ 150.00

FOR INQUIRIES AND DETAILS:

DR. CORAZON COLLANTES-JOSE
Rm. 505 - 5th Floor Cityland 3
Legaspi Village Rufino Street, Makati City
Tel: (+632) 819-2966
E-mail: corazonjosemd@yahoo.com

DR. MARIANO AGCAOILI
3-B, 14th Street, New Manila, Quezon City
Tel: (+632) 724-3675

TOPICS

1. Full Facelift Suspension Suture Technique - Zureck Thread
   - Dr. Longin Zureck
2. Scalp Suspension Technique
   - Dr. Manuel Fernandez, Jr.
3. Hair Transplantation - Latest Trends
   - Dr. Andrew Pineda
4. Classical Temporal Lift with combined Suspension Suture Technique
   - Dr. Mariano Agcaoili
5. Frown Obliteration & Breast Suspension Techniques
   - Dr. Rosario Ballecer
   - Dr. Gold Gonzales
6. Brow Lift Suspension Technique using Prolene
   a) Dr. Jaime Capco
   b) Dr. Angeles Morales de Leon
   c) Dr. Fatima Regala
7. Suspension Suture - Jowls
   - Dr. Ferdinand Buencamino
8. Neck Lift - Criss Cross Sling Suspension Technique
   - Dr. Corazon Collantes-Jose
   - Dr. Agnes Thaebtharm
   - Dr. Teresita Ferrariz
9. Chin Bunching / Buttocks Bunching
   - Dr. Narciso Adraneda
   - Dr. Ferdinand Carlos
   - Dr. Zuriel Tan
10. Malar or Cheek Lift
    - Dr. Leonardo Abogado

PROGRAM

7:45 am	Registration
9:45 am	Opening Remarks - Dr. C. Collantes-Jose
10:00 am	Start of Live Surgical Workshop
12:00 nn	Lunch Break
1:00 pm	Continuation of Live Surgical Workshop
6:00 pm	End of Workshop

For Greater Viewing Comfort

Acer presents its current roster of award-winning and affordable LCD monitors. Highly functional, these new line-ups are guaranteed to deliver sharp, crisp, vivid and flicker-free images, whether creating spreadsheets, word processing or simply searching the web.

Acer AL1511

- 38.1 cms. (15") Viewable Area
- 1024 x 768 maximum resolution
- Brightness: 250 cd/m2
- Contrast ratio: 350:1
- 3.0 kg.
- Silver Black

Before: P 15,280.00
Promo Price: P 12,999.00

Acer AL1512

- 38.1 cms. (15") Viewable Area
- 1024 x 768 maximum resolution
- Brightness: 250 cd/m2
- Contrast ratio: 450:1
- with built-in speaker
- 2.5 kg.
- Silver Black

Before: P 15,880.00
Promo Price: P 13,299.00

Acer AL1521

Promo Period: February 23 to March 20, 2005

- 38.1 cms. (15") Viewable Area
- 1024 x 768 maximum resolution
- Brightness: 250 cd/m2
- Contrast ratio: 400:1
- with built-in speaker
- 3.7 kg.
- Silver Black

Before: P 16,880.00
Promo Price: P 14,999.00

Acer AL1714

- 43.18 cms. (17") Viewable Area
- 1280 x 1024 maximum resolution
- Brightness: 370 cd/m2
- Contrast ratio: 350:1
- with built-in speaker
- 3.5 kg.
- Silver Black

Before: P 17,800.00
Promo Price: P 14,999.00

Acer AL1721

- 43.18 cms. (17") Viewable Area
- 1280 x 1024 maximum resolution
- Brightness: 260 cd/m2
- Contrast ratio: 450:1
- with built-in speaker
- 5 kg.
- Silver Black

Before: P 19,800.00
Promo Price: P 16,999.00

Acer AL1913

- 48.26 (19") Viewable Area
- 1280 x 1024 maximum resolution
- Brightness: 300 cd/m2
- Contrast ratio: 800:1
- 4.9 kg.
- Silver Black

Before: P 35,900.00
Promo Price: P 29,900.00

Acer AL2032W

- 50.8 cms. (20") Widescreen Monitor
- 1680 x 1050 maximum resolution
- Brightness: 300 cd/m2
- Contrast ratio: 600:1
- with built-in speaker
- 6.8kg.
- Silver Black

P 49, 880.00

Simply the best ...ONLY FROM ACER!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0945, Series of 2005

Inquire here
ACER HOTLINE
815-3388

www.acer.com.ph
One (1) Year Limited Warranty on Parts and Labor.
Price quoted is on a cash basis only. VAT Inclusive.

REF NO 021605

acer
Empowering People

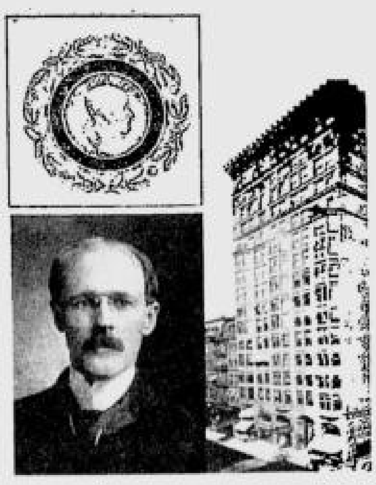
Acer Consumer Partners: Metro Manila Accent Micro- 816-1803 Complink- 920-9140 / 41 E-hub Computers- 775-0140 / 41 Electroworld- 892-9120 Silicon Valley- 371-5611 to 20 VillMan Computer Systems 892-2222 ***Provincial*** Bacolod: Business Computing Group (BCG)- (034)434-2539 Baguio: Electroworld- (074)619-7685 / 86 Exponent Enterprises- (074)443-9384 Butuan: Columbia Computers- (085)815-0275 Cagayan De Oro: Columbia Computers- (08822)728771 Cavite: Silicon Valley- (046)417-7881 Cebu: Accent Micro- (032)2320462 Silicon Valley- (032)234-0219 Dagupan: Chimes Enterprises- (075)523-6974 Electroworld- (075)515-8420 Davao: Columbia Computers- (082)222-1808 Silicon Valley- (082)297-6231 to 41 General Santos: Columbia Computers- (083)552-6231 Laguna: Electroworld- (02)520 8575 Pampanga: ElectroWorld- (045)961-7178 / 79 Silicon Valley- (045)961-2225 ***Commercial Dealers:*** AdTel 9102727 Advance Microsystems 6354181 AsicNet 2411856 Advance Solutions, Inc. 5247704 Astral Data Systems 3728913 Ayala Systems 8132494 Columbia Technologies 5242666 Compucare Corporation 7229783 Computer Solutions 7255279 Computrends 8111548 Contronics Computer 7271718 Creative Technologies 4004222 Eco IT Services 6872963 Flexy Components,Inc. 6333217 Gemora Electronics 8833405 Hytech 7221122 I-Link Builders 4265870 Information Products 7215250 Microgenesis 8924447 Micro Image 8404050/51 Micro Pacific 8404563 Microphase 8128814 Microserver Information 8941319 Microsmith Technologies 5645555 Northgate 7247692 Pacific Office Machines 7226978 PC Tech 8924326 Prince Tech 7293757 ProData System 4396236 Productivity Tech 8992092 Sim Computer Sales 8909642 S&S Computer Corporation 7227481 Softworld Inc. 9203369 Touch Solutions 7051421 Unison 3745888 ValueLine Systems 9252223 Value Systems Phils. 5267152 Virtuality Information Technology Systems 6875121 XCL 2426424 Zenshin 3650536

R.I. District 3830 salutes Rotary on its 100th Anniversary today

CELEBRATE
ROTARY
100 Years

The Rotary organization was born on the cold, winter night of 23 February 1905 in Chicago, Illinois, USA, the brainchild of a lawyer named Paul Harris. Founded on the pillars of Service and Fellowship, it is today the world's largest humanitarian organization, with nearly 32,000 Rotary Clubs in 166 countries and over 1.2 million members across the globe.

Rotary - The First 100 Years



Rotary is Born

On February 23, 1905 a lawyer named Paul Harris and three friends – Silvester Schiele, a coal dealer, Hiram Shorey, a merchant tailor, and Gustavus Loehr, a mining engineer-- gathered at the office of Loehr in Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago. They discussed Harris' idea of having leaders in business and the professions meet periodically and expand acquaintances. They met weekly, rotating among their offices, and invited other businessmen and professionals to join them, but were careful to limit the invitations to one representative from each business or profession. Their first recruit was printer Harry Ruggles. Thereafter, the group formally organized themselves as the Rotary Club of Chicago, the very first Rotary Club in the world. Silvester Schiele was the first president as Paul Harris agreed to become president only in 1907. They adopted as the original club emblem the wagon wheel, precursor of the present-day logo, the Rotary cogwheel.

By the end of 1905, the membership had expanded to 30. With a larger group, it became difficult to meet in their offices, so they decided to meet in hotels and restaurants as is the practice today. Subsequent years saw Rotary growing rapidly in the United States. In 1908, the second Rotary Club was chartered in San Francisco, followed by the Rotary Club of Oakland, both in California. Other Rotary Clubs in Seattle, Los Angeles and New York followed.

The National Association of Rotary Clubs was organized at the first Rotary Convention held in Chicago in 1910. On this occasion Paul Harris was recognized as the founder of Rotary and elected president of the association.

Rotary Goes International

In 1910, the Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, was organized. Two years later it was chartered as the first Rotary Club outside the United States. In 1912 Rotary crossed the Atlantic as Rotary Clubs were established in the British Isles. In 1919, fourteen years from the time it started in Chicago, Rotary crossed the Pacific Ocean.

Rotary in the Philippines.

The Rotary Club of Manila, which had been organized by the Rotary Club of Seattle, was chartered on June 28, 1919, the first Rotary Club in Asia. It took a few years for Rotary to grow in the Philippines. After the Rotary Club of Manila, the Rotary Club of Cebu was chartered in 1932, followed by the Rotary Club of Iloilo in 1933. All these clubs were initially under the direct supervision of the R.I. President. It was only in 1936 that the Philippines was organized under District 81, together with the Rotary Clubs in China. The Rotary Club of Bacolod was charted in 1936, followed by the Rotary Club of Baguio in 1937. In 1938, District 81 became the exclusive district for all Philippine Rotary clubs. Three more clubs, the Rotary Clubs of Davao, Dagupan and Dumaguete, were chartered in 1938 before the growth of Rotary in the Philippines was disrupted by the outbreak of war.

Rotary resumed extension efforts in the Philippines after the war. District 81 was re-named District 385, and by 1964, fifty-four Rotary Clubs, with a membership of about 2000, had been established in the Philippines. District 385 was divided into District 385 and 380 to accommodate the new clubs added every year. But by 1974, the districts doubled to four with the addition of Districts 382 and 386. Before the district number system was revised to a four-digit system in 1991, there were already nine districts in operation in the Philippines.

R.I. District 3830

District 3830 was created in 1999, the tenth and youngest Rotary District in the country. It was originally a part of the dynamic District 3810 that grew to 117 clubs by 1997. All the Rotary Clubs in Makati, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Alabang, Taguig, Palawan and Pateros were grouped to constitute District 3830 by virtue of Decision No. 367, which was adopted by the Rotary International Board of Directors during their 4th meeting on June 1998, RY 1997-98, at Evanston, Illinois, USA.

Profile: District 3830

The creation of District 3830 followed a long process initiated by then District 3810 Governor Leo de Guzman in 1993. After the dissemination of pertinent information to and consultation with all clubs in the district, the clubs voted on their preferred option by mailing their ballots to Rotary International. The result of the balloting was an overwhelming approval for the creation of District 3830 as the 10th Rotary District in the Philippines.

District 3830 is now at full district-strength with 77 Rotary Clubs and a membership of 2,416 Rotarians as of end December 2004. Its geographic composition includes both highly urbanized modern communities and centers of finance, commerce, and industry, as well as rural agricultural communities. Its residential communities range from the most opulent and luxurious to the most humble of rural hamlets.

The City of Makati, with 1,300 Rotarians and 36 Rotary Clubs, is considered the financial and commercial capital of the Philippines. This is where most of the major local and foreign banks have their main offices. It has modern buildings that house the head offices of major Filipino and foreign companies and are equipped with the most sophisticated and technologically advanced electronic communication, information and computing facilities. It is also home to the most advanced graduate schools in management, and to the pioneer school for trade and vocational skills. There are also several primary and secondary international schools for foreign nationals and is where most of the foreign embassies and consulates are located. The city also has the most luxurious homes and apartment housing complexes.

Alabang, Taguig, and Pateros were former bedroom communities, but are now developing into complex communities of commerce and service industries. Las Piñas and Parañaque are home to a very large population of middle income families, and host to a number of light industries. The island province of Palawan, on the other hand, is the considered the last frontier. Mostly forested, it is the site of the only off-shore natural gas production and distribution facility. It has several attractive geological formations that attract droves of local and foreign tourists. Among these are the weather-worn stone formations in inlets, bays and white sand beaches, and exquisite coral formations in El Nido. The 7-km St. Paul's underground river is located near Puerto Princesa, the capital city. In Tabon are archaeological sites and caves, where the skulls of ancient Filipinos were found. Palawan is famous for its famous white sand beaches, including the very exclusive Amanpulo. Most of the people make a living from agriculture and fishing, although eco-tourism is fast catching up as a growing industry there.

PDG Guiller E. Tumangan and the Millennium Club Presidents were the first officers of R.I. District 3830. They served during RY 1999-2000. They were succeeded by PDG Hugo "Jun" T. Perez and his Jubilee Team in RY 2000-2001, followed by PDG Ernesto "Ernie" L. Salas and the Platinum Presidents in RY 2001-2002, PDG Romeo "Romy" V. Cruz and the Loving Presidents in RY 2002-2003, IPDG Jose "Jun" L. Cortes, Jr. and the Star Presidents in RY 2003-2004, and now by incumbent Gov. J. Antonio "Tony" Quila and his Centennial Presidents.

MEGA JOB FAIR 2004

District 3830 Projects

Under the leadership and guidance of Gov. Tony Quila, D-3830 clubs are undertaking projects in health, education, water, environment, community development, employment generation and disaster relief, among others.

- The flagship project in health is "Stop TB 2005," which seeks to identify an initial 5,000 TB-positive adults and bring them to barangay health centers for free treatment. The project has gone nationwide with the signing on September 2004, on the initiative of D-3830 Gov. Tony Quila, of "The Declaration Against TB" by the governors of all 10 R.I. districts in the Philippines. The project is being implemented in partnership with the Department of Health, World Health Organization and the Philippine Coalition Against TB. Other health initiatives are a feeding program for pre-school children, in collaboration with Kabisig ng Kalahi; an eye care program under which schoolchildren with eye defects are given free eyeglasses and adult eye patients undergo free surgery for cataract. Clubs also conduct periodic medical-dental missions in economically depressed communities.
- The cause of education is served mainly through its literacy project, the Reading & Math Academy, a computer-based program that aims to improve students' math skills and reading comprehension in English to give them a fighting chance at job markets here and abroad. The district also runs the Stepping Stone Learning Center, a school for special children.
- The district contributes to poverty reduction efforts with its development program team-up with Gawad Kalinga, under which clubs help transform erstwhile slums into model communities by delivering to them a package of services in housing, health, education, water, skills training, micro finance and income generation.
- In the area of the environment, the district is partnering with Bantay Kalikasan for the Paul Harris Forest Project that calls for the reforestation of the La Mesa Watershed, a primary source of water for Metro Manila's 12 million people.
- To help in job generation efforts, D-3830 clubs held in September, Youth Month, a series of job fairs that brought together the country's top companies and a throng of jobseekers, many of whom eventually got out of the roster of the unemployed.
- District 3830 boasts of its Partnership in Service Program (PSP), under which Rotary clubs within and without the district apply for and receive outright financial assistance of up to P50,000 for a project that meets certain criteria. With the Rotary Club of Makati (mother club of 35 Makati RC's and home club to Gov. Tony Quila) as lead club, the PSP has been hailed as the local version of The Rotary Foundation's Matching Grants Program.
- Responding to the call for help for the townsfolk of Infanta and Real, Quezon who were badly battered by a procession of typhoons in late November 2004, Gov. Tony Quila and his Centennial Presidents rose as one, raising about P1.5 million in cash and kind for the disaster relief drive.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1905	- RC Chicago is formed in Room 711, Unity Bldg., 127 Dearborn St., Chicago, Illinois, USA. Silvester Schiele is elected President, with Paul Harris, Hiram Shorey and Gustav Loehr as members.
1907	- RC Chicago undertakes its first humanitarian project – the donation of a horse to a preacher; and its first service project – the Chicago City Hall Toilet.
1908	- RC San Francisco is formed as second RC. This event is very significant as many Chicago Rotarians favored expanding the club rather than forming another club. Had it not been for San Francisco, there would be no RI today
1910	- The National Association of Rotary Clubs (NARC), the precursor of Rotary International, is organized at the first Rotary Convention in Chicago. Paul Harris is elected the first President to serve a two-year term. - Rotary crosses US border and establishes the first non-US club, RC Winnipeg of Manitoba, Canada.
1911	- The "National Rotarian" is launched as the Rotary magazine (As Rotary spread to other parts of the world, the word "National" was later dropped and it became simply "The Rotarian"). - Rotary crosses the Atlantic with the formation of RC London, England, followed in quick succession and on in same year by RC Dublin and RC Belfast in Ireland.
1912	- With more and more clubs organized in other countries, the National Association of Rotary Clubs is renamed International Association of Rotary Clubs at the Rotary Convention in Duluth, Minneapolis. - The Rotary Wheel is adopted as the association's emblem. - Paul Harris retires and is named President Emeritus. - Rotary adopts "Service Above Self" as its motto
1913	- R.I. undertakes the first Disaster Relief Project of $25,000 for flood relief in Indiana and Ohio, USA.
1914	- R.I. adopts the tricolor Rotary Flag: White for Internationalism (friendship and goodwill), Royal Blue for Constancy of purpose, and Gold for Purity of high ethical standards and moral values
1915	- The Rotary Convention in San Francisco adopts Rotary's Constitution and By-laws which were drafted by a committee chaired by Arch Klump. - It also adopts a standard Constitution and By-laws for all Rotary Clubs - It adopts Rotary Code of Ethics, composed of 11 Articles to restore public trust in business - Creates Rotary Districts - Creates the title of "District Governor" as the highest RI Officer in the District Establishes the Annual District Conference (DISCON)
1917	- Establishes the Rotary Endowment Fund as proposed by Arch Klump, with an initial donation of $2.60 from RC Kansas City
1919	- Rotary goes to Asia with the chartering of RC Manila on June 28, 1919
1922	- The International Association of Rotary Clubs is renamed Rotary International at the Rotary Convention in Los Angeles, California
1924	- The House of Friendship, a regular feature of the Rotary Convention, is initiated at the Toronto Rotary Convention in Ontario, Canada
1926	- Adm. Richard Byrd plants the Rotary flag at the North Pole
1927	- The first Rotary Youth Exchange is initiated between Copenhagen, Denmark and Nice, France
1928	- R.I. adopts the Four Avenues of Service at the Minneapolis Rotary Convention The Rotary Foundation is organized out of the Rotary Endowment Fund
1929	- TRF makes its first grant of $500 to the International Society of Crippled Children
1930	- Rotary celebrates its 25th Anniversary at Chicago Rotary Convention Adm. Richard Byrd plants Rotary flag on South Pole
1932	- R.I. adopts the Four Way Test as formulated by Herbert Taylor
1947	- Paul Harris dies on January 27. - TRF contributions reach US$1 Million TRF launches Ambassadorial Scholarship Program
1950	- R.I. adopts One Object of Rotary with Four Avenues of Service at the Atlantic City Rotary Convention in New Jersey, USA
1955	- Rotary celebrates its Golden Anniversary at Chicago Rotary Convention
1957	- Paul Harris Fellow Recognition Program is initiated with PRID Allison Brush as first PHF
1960	- Rotary charters the 10,000th Club
1961	- Rotary membership surpasses 500,000
1962	- The first Interact Club is organized in Melbourne, Florida, USA - TRF creates World Community Service (WCS) Program
1963	- TRF initiates Matching Grants Program
1965	- A Group Study Exchange (GSE) is arranged between districts in California and Japan
1968	- The first Rotaract Club is organized in Charlotte, North Carolina
1970	- The Council on Legislation is designated as RI's Parliament
1971	- RYLA is officially adopted as a Rotary youth program
1978	- The 3H Grants (Health, Hunger and Humanity) Program is adopted by TRF - RI revokes Charter of RC Duarte, California for admitting 3 women as members; RC Duarte in turn sues RI
1979	- TRF approves its first 3H Grant Project, in the amount of $760,000, for the purchase of oral polio vaccine for the immunization of one million children in the Philippines
1980	- Rotary celebrates its 75th Anniversary
1982	- Rotary charters the 20,000th Club
1985	On Feb. 23, at Rotary's 80th anniversary, Polio Plus 2005 is officially launched to eradicate polio by Rotary's 100th anniversary in 2005 and raise $500 million to immunize the children of the world against polio. To date, 2 billion children have been immunized, 8 million polio cases have been prevented and the lives of 800,000 children have been saved.
1986	- Rotary's membership breaches the 1 million mark - The Rotary Community Corps is initiated in the Philippines
1987	US Supreme Court, in a 7-0 decision, upholds RC Duarte suit, paving the way for the opening of Rotary's doors to women
1989	- R.I.'s Council on Legislation votes to allow admission of women into Rotary
1990	- R.I. charters the 250,000th club
1991	- Rotary adopts "Preserve Planet Earth" program
1993	- Rotary initiates "Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program"
1998	- Special Dreams for the Future Committee is formed Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution are established
2000	- Rotary surpasses 30,000 clubs
2003	- TRF reports 850,000 PHFs and 5,000 major donors
2004	- Rotary reports 31,500 clubs and a membership of 1,200,000
2005	- Rotary celebrates 100th anniversary - Rotary wraps up worldwide PolioPlus Campaign

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

R.I. District 3830 salutes Rotary on its 100th Anniversary today

CELEBRATE
ROTARY
100 Years

The Rotary organization was born on the cold, winter night of 23 February 1905 in Chicago, Illinois, USA, the brainchild of a lawyer named Paul Harris. Founded on the pillars of Service and Fellowship, it is today the world's largest humanitarian organization, with nearly 32,000 Rotary Clubs in 166 countries and over 1.2 million members across the globe.

Rotary - The First 100 Years

Rotary is Born

On February 23, 1905 a lawyer named Paul Harris and three friends – Silvester Schiele, a coal dealer, Hiram Shorey, a merchant tailor, and Gustavus Loehr, a mining engineer-- gathered at the office of Loehr in Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago. They discussed Harris' idea of having leaders in business and the professions meet periodically and expand acquaintances. They met weekly, rotating among their offices, and invited other businessmen and professionals to join them, but were careful to limit the invitations to one representative from each business or profession. Their first recruit was printer Harry Ruggles. Thereafter, the group formally organized themselves as the Rotary Club of Chicago, the very first Rotary Club in the world. Silvester Schiele was the first president as Paul Harris agreed to become president only in 1907. They adopted as the original club emblem the wagon wheel, precursor of the present-day logo, the Rotary cogwheel.

By the end of 1905, the membership had expanded to 30. With a larger group, it became difficult to meet in their offices, so they decided to meet in hotels and restaurants as is the practice today. Subsequent years saw Rotary growing rapidly in the United States. In 1908, the second Rotary Club was chartered in San Francisco, followed by the Rotary Club of Oakland, both in California. Other Rotary Clubs in Seattle, Los Angeles and New York followed.

The National Association of Rotary Clubs was organized at the first Rotary Convention held in Chicago in 1910. On this occasion Paul Harris was recognized as the founder of Rotary and elected president of the association.

Rotary Goes International

In 1910, the Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, was organized. Two years later it was chartered as the first Rotary Club outside the United States. In 1912 Rotary crossed the Atlantic as Rotary Clubs were established in the British Isles. In 1919, fourteen years from the time it started in Chicago, Rotary crossed the Pacific Ocean.

Rotary in the Philippines.

The Rotary Club of Manila, which had been organized by the Rotary Club of Seattle, was chartered on June 28, 1919, the first Rotary Club in Asia. It took a few years for Rotary to grow in the Philippines. After the Rotary Club of Manila, the Rotary Club of Cebu was chartered in 1932, followed by the Rotary Club of Iloilo in 1933. All these clubs were initially under the direct supervision of the R.I. President. It was only in 1936 that the Philippines was organized under District 81, together with the Rotary Clubs in China. The Rotary Club of Bacolod was charted in 1936, followed by the Rotary Club of Baguio in 1937. In 1938, District 81 became the exclusive district for all Philippine Rotary clubs. Three more clubs, the Rotary Clubs of Davao, Dagupan and Dumaguete, were chartered in 1938 before the growth of Rotary in the Philippines was disrupted by the outbreak of war.

Rotary resumed extension efforts in the Philippines after the war. District 81 was re-named District 385, and by 1964, fifty-four Rotary Clubs, with a membership of about 2000, had been established in the Philippines. District 385 was divided into District 385 and 380 to accommodate the new clubs added every year. But by 1974, the districts doubled to four with the addition of Districts 382 and 386. Before the district number system was revised to a four-digit system in 1991, there were already nine districts in operation in the Philippines.

R.I. District 3830

District 3830 was created in 1999, the tenth and youngest Rotary District in the country. It was originally a part of the dynamic District 3810 that grew to 117 clubs by 1997. All the Rotary Clubs in Makati, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Alabang, Taguig, Palawan and Pateros were grouped to constitute District 3830 by virtue of Decision No. 367, which was adopted by the Rotary International Board of Directors during their 4th meeting on June 1998, RY 1997-98, at Evanston, Illinois, USA.

Profile: District 3830

The creation of District 3830 followed a long process initiated by then District 3810 Governor Leo de Guzman in 1993. After the dissemination of pertinent information to and consultation with all clubs in the district, the clubs voted on their preferred option by mailing their ballots to Rotary International. The result of the balloting was an overwhelming approval for the creation of District 3830 as the 10th Rotary District in the Philippines.

District 3830 is now at full district-strength with 77 Rotary Clubs and a membership of 2,416 Rotarians as of end December 2004. Its geographic composition includes both highly urbanized modern communities and centers of finance, commerce, and industry, as well as rural agricultural communities. Its residential communities range from the most opulent and luxurious to the most humble of rural hamlets.

The City of Makati, with 1,300 Rotarians and 36 Rotary Clubs, is considered the financial and commercial capital of the Philippines. This is where most of the major local and foreign banks have their main offices. It has modern buildings that house the head offices of major Filipino and foreign companies and are equipped with the most sophisticated and technologically advanced electronic communication, information and computing facilities. It is also home to the most advanced graduate schools in management, and to the pioneer school for trade and vocational skills. There are also several primary and secondary international schools for foreign nationals and is where most of the foreign embassies and consulates are located. The city also has the most luxurious homes and apartment housing complexes.

Alabang, Taguig, and Pateros were former bedroom communities, but are now developing into complex communities of commerce and service industries. Las Piñas and Parañaque are home to a very large population of middle income families, and host to a number of light industries. The island province of Palawan, on the other hand, is the considered the last frontier. Mostly forested, it is the site of the only off-shore natural gas production and distribution facility. It has several attractive geological formations that attract droves of local and foreign tourists. Among these are the weather-worn stone formations in inlets, bays and white sand beaches, and exquisite coral formations in El Nido. The 7-km St. Paul's underground river is located near Puerto Princesa, the capital city. In Tabon are archaeological sites and caves, where the skulls of ancient Filipinos were found. Palawan is famous for its famous white sand beaches, including the very exclusive Amanpulo. Most of the people make a living from agriculture and fishing, although eco-tourism is fast catching up as a growing industry there.

PDG Guiller E. Tumangan and the Millennium Club Presidents were the first officers of R.I. District 3830. They served during RY 1999-2000. They were succeeded by PDG Hugo "Jun" T. Perez and his Jubilee Team in RY 2000-2001, followed by PDG Ernesto "Ernie" L. Salas and the Platinum Presidents in RY 2001-2002, PDG Romeo "Romy" V. Cruz and the Loving Presidents in RY 2002-2003, IPDG Jose "Jun" L. Cortes, Jr. and the Star Presidents in RY 2003-2004, and now by incumbent Gov. J. Antonio "Tony" Quila and his Centennial Presidents.

MEGA JOB FAIR 2004

District 3830 Projects

Under the leadership and guidance of Gov. Tony Quila, D-3830 clubs are undertaking projects in health, education, water, environment, community development, employment generation and disaster relief, among others.

- The flagship project in health is "Stop TB 2005," which seeks to identify an initial 5,000 TB-positive adults and bring them to barangay health centers for free treatment. The project has gone nationwide with the signing on September 2004, on the initiative of D-3830 Gov. Tony Quila, of "The Declaration Against TB" by the governors of all 10 R.I. districts in the Philippines. The project is being implemented in partnership with the Department of Health, World Health Organization and the Philippine Coalition Against TB. Other health initiatives are a feeding program for pre-school children, in collaboration with Kabisig ng Kalahi; an eye care program under which schoolchildren with eye defects are given free eyeglasses and adult eye patients undergo free surgery for cataract. Clubs also conduct periodic medical-dental missions in economically depressed communities.
- The cause of education is served mainly through its literacy project, the Reading & Math Academy, a computer-based program that aims to improve students' math skills and reading comprehension in English to give them a fighting chance at job markets here and abroad. The district also runs the Stepping Stone Learning Center, a school for special children.
- The district contributes to poverty reduction efforts with its development program team-up with Gawad Kalinga, under which clubs help transform erstwhile slums into model communities by delivering to them a package of services in housing, health, education, water, skills training, micro finance and income generation.
- In the area of the environment, the district is partnering with Bantay Kalikasan for the Paul Harris Forest Project that calls for the reforestation of the La Mesa Watershed, a primary source of water for Metro Manila's 12 million people.
- To help in job generation efforts, D-3830 clubs held in September, Youth Month, a series of job fairs that brought together the country's top companies and a throng of jobseekers, many of whom eventually got out of the roster of the unemployed.
- District 3830 boasts of its Partnership in Service Program (PSP), under which Rotary clubs within and without the district apply for and receive outright financial assistance of up to P50,000 for a project that meets certain criteria. With the Rotary Club of Makati (mother club of 35 Makati RC's and home club to Gov. Tony Quila) as lead club, the PSP has been hailed as the local version of The Rotary Foundation's Matching Grants Program.
- Responding to the call for help for the townsfolk of Infanta and Real, Quezon who were badly battered by a procession of typhoons in late November 2004, Gov. Tony Quila and his Centennial Presidents rose as one, raising about P1.5 million in cash and kind for the disaster relief drive.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1905	RC Chicago is formed in Room 711, Unity Bldg., 127 Dearborn St., Chicago, Illinois, USA. Silvester Schiele is elected President, with Paul Harris, Hiram Shorey and Gustav Loehr as members.
1907	RC Chicago undertakes its first humanitarian project – the donation of a horse to a preacher; and its first service project – the Chicago City Hall Toilet.
1908	RC San Francisco is formed as second RC. This event is very significant as many Chicago Rotarians favored expanding the club rather than forming another club. Had it not been for San Francisco, there would be no RI today.
1910	The National Association of Rotary Clubs (NARC), the precursor of Rotary International, is organized at the first Rotary Convention in Chicago. Paul Harris is elected the first President to serve a two-year term. Rotary crosses US border and establishes the first non-US club, RC Winnipeg of Manitoba, Canada.
1911	The "National Rotarian" is launched as the Rotary magazine (As Rotary spread to other parts of the world, the word "National" was later dropped and it became simply "The Rotarian"). Rotary crosses the Atlantic with the formation of RC London, England, followed in quick succession and on in same year by RC Dublin and RC Belfast in Ireland.
1912	With more and more clubs organized in other countries, the National Association of Rotary Clubs is renamed International Association of Rotary Clubs at the Rotary Convention in Duluth, Minneapolis. The Rotary Wheel is adopted as the association's emblem. Paul Harris retires and is named President Emeritus. Rotary adopts "Service Above Self" as its motto
1913	R.I. undertakes the first Disaster Relief Project of $25,000 for flood relief in Indiana and Ohio, USA.
1914	R.I. adopts the tricolor Rotary Flag: White for internationalism (friendship and goodwill), Royal Blue for Constancy of purpose, and Gold for Purity of high ethical standards and moral values
1915	The Rotary Convention in San Francisco adopts Rotary's Constitution and By-laws which were drafted by a committee chaired by Arch Klump. It also adopts a standard Constitution and By-laws for all Rotary Clubs It adopts Rotary Code of Ethics, composed of 11 Articles to restore public trust in business Creates Rotary Districts Creates the title of "District Governor" as the highest RI Officer in the District Establishes the Annual District Conference (DISCON)
1917	Establishes the Rotary Endowment Fund as proposed by Arch Klump, with an initial donation of $2.60 from RC Kansas City
1919	Rotary goes to Asia with the chartering of RC Manila on June 28, 1919
1922	The International Association of Rotary Clubs is renamed Rotary International at the Rotary Convention in Los Angeles, California
1924	The House of Friendship, a regular feature of the Rotary Convention, is initiated at the Toronto Rotary Convention in Ontario, Canada
1926	Adm. Richard Byrd plants the Rotary flag at the North Pole
1927	The first Rotary Youth Exchange is initiated between Copenhagen, Denmark and Nice, France
1928	R.I. adopts the Four Avenues of Service at the Minneapolis Rotary Convention The Rotary Foundation is organized out of the Rotary Endowment Fund
1929	TRF makes its first grant of $500 to the International Society of Crippled Children
1930	Rotary celebrates its 25th Anniversary at Chicago Rotary Convention Adm. Richard Byrd plants Rotary flag on South Pole
1932	R.I. adopts the Four Way Test as formulated by Herbert Taylor
1947	Paul Harris dies on January 27. TRF contributions reach US$1 Million TRF launches Ambassadorial Scholarship Program
1950	R.I. adopts One Object of Rotary with Four Avenues of Service at the Atlantic City Rotary Convention in New Jersey, USA
1955	Rotary celebrates its Golden Anniversary at Chicago Rotary Convention
1957	Paul Harris Fellow Recognition Program is initiated with PRID Allison Brush as first PHF
1960	Rotary charters the 10,000th Club
1961	Rotary membership surpasses 500,000
1962	The first Interact Club is organized in Melbourne, Florida, USA TRF initiates World Community Service (WCS) Program
1963	TRF initiates Matching Grants Program
1965	A Group Study Exchange (GSE) is arranged between districts in California and Japan
1968	The first Rotaract Club is organized in Charlotte, North Carolina
1970	The Council on Legislation is designated as RI's Parliament
1971	RYLA is officially adopted as a Rotary youth program
1978	The 3H Grants (Health, Hunger and Humanity) Program is adopted by TRF RI revokes Charter of RC Duarte, California for admitting 3 women as members, RC Duarte in turn sues RI
1979	TRF approves its first 3H Grant Project, in the amount of $760,000, for the purchase of oral polio vaccine for the immunization of one million children in the Philippines
1980	Rotary celebrates its 75th Anniversary.
1982	Rotary charters the 20,000th Club
1985	On Feb. 23, at Rotary's 80th anniversary, Polio Plus 2005 is officially launched to eradicate polio by Rotary's 100th anniversary in 2005 and raise $500 million to immunize the children of the world against polio. To date, 2 billion children have been immunized, 8 million polio cases have been prevented and the lives of 800,000 children have been saved.
1986	Rotary's membership breaches the 1 million mark The Rotary Community Corps is initiated in the Philippines
1987	US Supreme Court, in a 7-0 decision, upholds RC Duarte suit, paving the way for the opening of Rotary's doors to women
1989	R.I.'s Council on Legislation votes to allow admission of women into Rotary
1990	R.I. charters the 250,000th club
1991	Rotary adopts "Preserve Planet Earth" program
1993	Rotary initiates "Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program"
1998	Special Dreams for the Future Committee is formed Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution are established.
2000	Rotary surpasses 30,000 clubs
2003	TRF reports 800,000 PHFs and 5,000 major donors
2004	Rotary reports 31,500 clubs and a membership of 1,200,000
2005	Rotary celebrates 100th anniversary Rotary wraps up worldwide PolioPlus Campaign

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Text threats force tighter security at ports in Mindanao

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—Security has been tightened at both ends of a ferry route that plies Panguil Bay between Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte following a warning that circulated through text messages that these ports will be the next target of attack.

Of particular concern is the ferry port of Mukas village of Kolambugan town in Lanao del Norte and the port in Ozamiz City.

According to Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Dimaporo, she ordered increased security measures in the Mukas port because of a barrage of text messages carrying the warning that came to her attention.

The text messages circulated beginning Feb. 18.

As the working week opened Monday, traffic of goods and people across the narrow bay continues to be brisk amid increased police presence at the Mukas port.

"I don't want to take chances. What if the warning proves to be true?" said Dimaporo, expressing confidence that the heightened alert and greater security are enough to deter any planned attack.

Over the weekend in Ozamiz City, security was also tightened in the port, obviously to complement the measures adopted in Lanao del Norte.

The warning against a terrorist attack on the ferry service came in the run-up to the fifth anniversary of a ferryboat bombing that killed 39 people, injured 41 and left about 10 unidentified charred remains buried in a public cemetery in Ozamiz City.

The incendiary bombs exploded inside two Super 5 Transit buses aboard the ferry M/V Our Lady of Mediatrix (now renamed M/V Swallow 2) as it was about to dock in the Ozamiz City port in the afternoon of Feb. 25, 2000. A third bomb exploded an hour later in Rizal town of Zamboanga del Norte inside another Super 5 Transit bus aboard a ferryboat from Lanao del Norte.

Investigators have established that the bombs were planted while the ferryboat was still loading passengers and vehicles at the Mukas port.

The privately-owned ferry service employs four ferryboats and operates from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day. Some 2,000 vehicles and around 5,000 people cross the narrow bay through this ferry service daily. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Police arrest members of rob, kidnap gang

DUMAGUETE CITY—A group of intelligence personnel arrested on Monday three members of the "Deathrow" gang, a newly formed group allegedly involved in hold-ups and killings here.

Negros Oriental police director Senior Supt. Marciano del Mar said Angelo Apostol, 19, and two minors aged 16 and 17 were arrested in Barangay Tinago by Task Force 24, whose members belonged to different intelligence units of the military, police and the National Bureau of Investigation.

Del Mar said the three killed street vendor Dennis Manungas on Sunday. *Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Fake medicines seized

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Police on Monday reported seizing a cargo of suspected fake medicines found in a truck and two houses in Tarlac City on Saturday. Personnel of the Bureau of Food and Drugs on Monday began the inventory of the contraband, said Dr. Juvencio Orduña, chief of the Department of Health in Central Luzon. Senior Insp. Rod de Guzman, acting Tarlac City police director, said the cargo belonged to a certain Peter Guevarra who was arrested last week in a raid here. Police blocked the truck as it entered the house at the Capitol Gardens subdivision in Tarlac City. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Trader slain in Tarlac

GERONA, Tarlac—A businessman was gunned down in Barangay Poblacion I here on Monday morning. Rogelio Ong, 56, was shot six times in different parts of the body while he was on his way to Paniqui town to deposit the earnings of his gasoline station and a cement distribution firm. Police said the two suspects, who were riding a motorcycle, took Ong's P200,000 cash. SPO2 Antonio Sagabaen, case investigator, said the robbery was planned because the suspects knew that Ong was carrying a large amount of money and knew his schedule that day. ***Ronald Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Marijuana uprooted

SUGPON, Ilocos Sur—Policemen uprooted P6.1 million worth of marijuana in eight plantations near the boundary of Ilocos Sur and Benguet on Feb. 17. Reports here said the plantations were located in Sitio Nacneng in Barangay Caoayan and near the town's boundary with Bakun and Kibungan towns in Benguet. Senior Supt. Mario Subagan, Ilocos Sur police director, said at least 30,000 fully grown marijuana plants were planted in the area. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

2 village execs killed

BALANGA CITY—A former barangay captain and a village council member in Dinalupihan town were gunned down on Saturday. Police identified the victims as Luder Belayo, former barangay captain of Tubo-Tubo, and Joey Abraham, 28, council member in the same village. Supt. Hernando Zafra, Bataan police director, said the lone gunman, believed to be a member of the Rebulusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, used a .45-cal. pistol in the attack. Belayo and Abraham, police said, had just alighted from a bus after attending a meeting with military officials in Barangay Pinulot when they were shot. ***Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Book on land conservation

A BOOK that highlights the five-year cooperation between the Philippines and Australia in land conservation was launched at the Australian Embassy, according to a news release. "Landcare in the Philippines—Stories of People and Places" tells of success stories from some of the 8,000 farmers in over 600 community groups in Mindanao involved in land conservation using the Landcare approach. They are participants in a five-year project funded by the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), in cooperation with the World Agroforestry (ICRAF). The Landcare approach to preventing soil erosion, which is popularly used in Australia, integrates conservation efforts of community groups, institutional networks and the government. The approach focuses on overcoming problems such as soil erosion and soil acidity.

Poro Point emerging as N. Luzon tourist spot

By Peter La. Julian
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The planned Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone (PPSEFZ) is slowly but surely shaping up and, as envisioned, may become Northern Luzon's best tourist, recreational and commercial destination.

As if this was stressed last Tuesday, Pennsylvania Avenue was unusually bright in the early evening after the ceremonial switch-on of street lights on the 3.2-kilometer thoroughfare that leads to the PPSEFZ.

The switch-on ceremonies were attended by local officials led by Mayor Mary Jane Ortega, heads of regional government offices, and executives of the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC).

Cost

Put up at a cost of P260,000, the thoroughfare is lit up by 21 Luminaire bulbs each mounted on a wooden post. It was a joint project with the San Fernando City government, which will provide maintenance funds and foot the electric bills.

The street lighting was one of several projects undertaken by the PPMC since the middle of 2004. PPMC was created in 2003 out of the John Hay Poro Point Development Corp. for a more focused direction and promotion of the 236.6-hectare economic zone.

Lawyer Juanito Antonio, PPMC president and chief operating officer, said the Bases Conversion Development Authority released last year P100 million for the development of the planned Poro Point tourism, recreational and commercial complex and the San Fernando Airport.

Enchanted Kingdom

Enchanted Kingdom
is open on
February 25, 2005
from 10 AM to 10 PM.
Fireworks display at 9 PM.
Holiday rates apply.

For inquiries, please call 8302111 to 16 or 8436073 to 78 or visit www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph.

After the bitter ampalaya war...

Time for a better-tasting Herbal HealthTea

Tizane Banaba Tea is made from banaba leaves, traditionally known for its health benefits on people suffering from diarhea to diabetes mellitus. **Banaba leaves contain Colosolic acid, a compound that has been studied by American and Japanese researchers for its blood sugar lowering property.**

These leaves are processed by Pascual Laboratories, Inc. that operates a WHO cGMP compliant and ISO 9001:2000 Certified Pharmaceutical Plant.

Tizane Banaba Tea is caffeine-free and sugar-free.

Caution:
Not a replacement for anti-diabetic medicine.

Tizane® BANABA TEA

Available at: mercury drug stores and other leading drugstores nationwide.
For inquiries, please call Allermed Hotline: 411-9907

Manufactured by Pascual Laboratories, Inc.

Panasonic
ideas for life

IMPORTANT SERVICE NOTICE

Panasonic Philippines notifies the public that we are not allowed to repair Panasonic 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz & 5.8 GHz cordless phones as per regulation by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC). Such cordless phones are **illegal** in the Philippines and they may interfere with cellular phones, etc. In this regard, we advise the consumers not to buy 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz & 5.8 GHz cordless phones. All Panasonic cordless phones distributed by Panasonic Philippines comply with the regulations and are type-approved by NTC.

Panasonic Wireless Technology...Smart people choose Panasonic

DECT
Digital
Multi-Handset
Clear Sound
Long Range
Digitally
Enhanced
Cordless
Telephone
KX-TCD500
P6,690
KX-TCD400
P3,590
Available in blue & black
KX-TC1230
P5,490
KX-TC1220
P3,890
KX-TC1210
P3,090
KX-TC2000
P1,880
Available in blue, black & silver

KEY FEATURES	KX-TC2000	KX-TC1210	KX-TC1220	KX-TC1230	KX-TCD400	KX-TCD500
Frequency Range	46 MHz - 49 MHz	46 MHz - 49 MHz	46 MHz - 49 MHz	46 MHz - 49 MHz	1.88 GHz-1.9 GHz	1.88 GHz-1.9 GHz
Caller-ID Compatible*		●	●	●		●
Caller-ID Memory*		50 stations	50 stations	50 stations		50 stations
Ringer Melody	1 melody	1 melody	1 melody	1 melody	14 melodies	15 melodies
Polyphonic Ring Tones						32 tones
Key Lock					●	●
Navigator Key		●	●	●	●	
Joystick						●
Large LCD with Blue Backlight						●
Lighted Handset Keypad	●	●	●	●		●
Phone Directory	11 stations	30 stations	30 stations	30 stations	20 stations	200 stations
Handset Locator (Paging)	●	●	●	●		●
Intercom w/ 2-way paging			●	●		●
Speakerphone			●	●		
Dual Keypads			●	●		
Digital Answering System				●		
Recording Time				up to 15 mins.		
Multi-Handset Capability (Optional)						up to 6 handsets

*Note: Caller ID Subscription required. Prices (SRP based) and features are subject to change without prior notice.

For dealer referrals, please call:
Panasonic Philippines (Sales Division of Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation)
Tel. Nos. 899-4595 to 98 • Fax No. 897-4558 • Email address: system@mepco.panasonic.com.ph

Misuari denies ordering men to attack Army

From page A1

attack the 104th Army Brigade in Sulu, according to Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo.

The former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao presented his side on the military claim that he was responsible for the renewed fighting between government troops and MNLF rebels led by Habier Malik during a three-hour, closed-door hearing at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, where he is being held on rebellion charges.

The hearing was conducted by the House special committee on peace, reconciliation and national unity, which Ocampo chairs.

Ocampo said at a press briefing that Misuari "absolutely denied" military reports that he had ordered his field commanders by cell phone to attack government targets.

"He is in solitary confinement," Ocampo pointed out. "He is also under watch by his security aides. How can he command MNLF leaders via cell phone? He said he has no means of communications inside his jail."

Asked if they believed Misuari, the eight members of the special committee replied almost in unison: "Of course, yes."

In an interview with the INQUIRER in Manila after the hearing, Ocampo said Misuari denied that the MNLF had a tactical alliance with Abu Sayyaf bandits, who had claimed responsibility for the Valentine's Day bomb attacks in the cities of Makati, General Santos and Davao.

The Armed Forces had linked the bomb attacks to the Sulu conflict, and said these were intended to ease the military pressure on the rebels.

But Ocampo said: "Misuari said that kidnappings and bombings are anti-Islam, and that the MNLF will never resort to these. He said the MNLF and Abu Sayyaf are like oil and water— *hindi puwedeng maghalo* (they can't mix)."

Massacre

By Ocampo's account, Misuari insisted that the renewed hostilities were triggered by the soldiers' massacre of a family, including a child, and urged the committee to hold fact-finding and public hearings in Sulu in order to get to the bottom of the issue.

He said Misuari warned that the fighting would spread to nearby provinces if the government does not act now to end it.

At about 12:30 p.m., during a break in the hearing, police allowed reporters inside a room to see Misuari, but only for a few minutes.

Misuari, looking pale and thin in a black suit over a yellow shirt, posed for pictures with members of the committee, his wife Tarhata and their children—Nurredha, 10; Khalid Nur, 7, and Nurhata, 4.

Ceasefire

Ocampo said that when Misuari was asked by the special committee whether he would be willing to appeal to his followers to call a ceasefire, the latter said he would only do so if requested by the government.

"Misuari said he did not want to be misunderstood on this. He said a call for a ceasefire would not be effective because President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered soldiers to finish off the Muslim rebels," the party-list representative said.

In the press briefing, Ocampo quoted Misuari as saying that "the real solution to the conflict in Mindanao is not war but a cessation of it."

Salvador Panelo, Misuari's lawyer, told reporters that the rebel leader made his position clear: "The MNLF did not start the ongoing war in Sulu. It was the military who [did]. So why would the MNLF call a ceasefire when it did not start the war?"

Speaker Jose de Venecia told the INQUIRER in Manila that he would recommend a declaration of ceasefire to Ms Arroyo to enable the warring forces to talk peace.

He said a ceasefire would be "the most desirable of the immediate options."

De Venecia also said he would try to convince AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu and Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz to halt military offensives against the rebels.

Religious adviser

Ocampo said Misuari admitted that Malik was his religious adviser. But he said that Malik was not getting orders from him.

Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin said interviews with Malik showed that the MNLF rebels had had no communication with Misuari for over a year now.

Amin said it was also worth noting that there was no cell site in the municipality of Panamao, Jolo, where the initial fighting started.

"I think it is only now that satellite phones are being used in that area. There is no cell site there," he said.

Ocampo said Misuari took the opportunity to air complaints against the Arroyo administration regarding his case as well as alleged violations of the 1996 peace agreement between the MNLF and the government.

Misuari said he had been languishing in jail for three years without a trial.

He also said then Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong had ordered a preliminary investigation of his case but that this was ignored and he was immediately charged with rebellion.

"Misuari complained that he had been denied a speedy trial, and that he had been in solitary confinement without conjugal visits since the revival of the hostilities in Sulu [three weeks ago]," Ocampo said.

On the broader issue of Muslim discontent, Misuari reportedly said the government had inserted several provisions in the peace agreement that were never discussed and approved.

Defender of peace

In an open letter dated Feb. 19 and addressed to his followers and the Muslim people, Misuari designated "brothers Lahammudin Ghullam and Arthur Laibing" to relay his "wishes for you to help prevent another outbreak of hostilities and war in our homeland."

Ghullam was appointed in 2001 by Misuari as deputy chief of the Bangsamoro Armed Forces. Laibing heads the MNLF forces in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

"Please cooperate with them in the best interest of our people and peace in that highly volatile and restive region," Misuari wrote, adding:

"The most important thing is for the MNLF to maintain its role as the chief defender and champion of peace in our homeland Mindanao and its islands."

He concluded the letter thus: "My love to all of you."

There was no specific reference to the weeks-old fighting in Sulu. Neither did Misuari issue an order for MNLF forces to cease fire.

A copy of Misuari's appeal for peace was given by Ghullam and company to De Venecia in a brief meeting at the House on Monday evening.

Ghullam and his party were accompanied to De Venecia's office by businessman Crismel Verano, who was recently named member of the board of directors of Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp.

'Please do your best'

Misuari also sent De Venecia a handwritten letter endorsing Ghullam to "augment your effort to prevent the spread of the war in Jolo to the mainland of Mindanao."

"You may authorize him and his companions to go around Mindanao to prevent the MNLF forces from getting embroiled in the war," Misuari told the Speaker in the letter also dated Feb. 19.

"I'd like to reiterate my support [for] your effort to investigate the root causes of this sudden outbreak of hostilities between the AFP and the MNLF forces with a view to stopping the war and restoring the peace not only in Jolo but in Mindanao as well," he said.

Quoting "the latest report," Misuari said "people in Mindanao are getting restive and are preparing to get [involved] in the war in Jolo."

"Please do your best to preempt any further threat to peace in the region," he told De Venecia.

Misuari gave the members of the special committee a copy of his letter to De Venecia after reading its contents during the hearing.

De Venecia said he had received Misuari's letter from the latter's wife Tarhata and MNLF commanders. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

Sulu folk call for speedy trial for Nur

JOLO, Sulu—A multisectoral group calling itself the Concerned Citizens of Sulu (CCS) has called for a speedy trial for Moro leader Nur Misuari, who has been in jail on charges of rebellion.

Misuari has been detained in Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna since Jan. 7, 2002 after Malaysian authorities arrested him when he fled to Sandakan, Malaysia at the height of violence instigated by his followers in Zamboanga City.

But since his arrest, Misuari's case has not progressed much.

The government said it was doing everything to fast-track the resolution of the charges against the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chieftain, but as of late, only petitions for the transfer of the venue of the hearing were moving.

The most recent resolution is the third in a series of petitions asking the justice department to transfer the venue of Misuari's trial to Sulu.

According to the CCS, a conglomeration of various organizations, professionals, religious, educational, civic, business and youth leaders advocating peace, justice, equality and harmony, Misuari has a right to speedy trial.

Its appeal was contained in a resolution dated Dec. 4 and addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo. The Office of the President received it only on Feb. 2, it was learned.

Ulka Ulama, one of the signatories and one of Misuari's counsels, said his client had been deprived of his freedom guaranteed by the Constitution and that the Moro leader had already "suffered immeasurably."

Ulama stressed that Misuari had the right to a "speedy, impartial and public trial."

Authorities have cited the demand for Misuari's release as the main reason for the recent gun battles that erupted between the military and the so-called Misuari Breakaway Group (MBG) in Panamao, Sulu.

Habir Malik, who reportedly led the attacks, has denied that Misuari ordered the offensive.

A member of the so-called MBG force involved in the fighting said the massacre of a family in Sitio Baunuh Ice, Barangay Kapuk Punggul in Maimbung town on Feb. 1 was only one of a series of alleged military abuses against civilians in the remote areas.

He said the abuses and Misuari's long incarceration had prompted them to deliver a "wake-up call" to the government. *Noralyn Mustafa, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

No money, no nat'l ID, say lawmakers

From page A1

not automatic. "The executive must include that activity in its budget request. The executive proposes, Congress approves," Andaya said.

Party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño (Bayan Muna) said Monday that a national ID system would cost at least P1.6 billion if the government were to issue a digitized card for every Filipino aged 15 to 65.

Cost-effective

Senators Edgardo Angara and Panfilo Lacson yesterday dismissed Casiño's concern that the government would have to spend a whopping P1.6 billion to provide every Filipino with a digitized ID card.

Angara and Lacson, who are at odds with each other, said in separate interviews that a single multipurpose ID card would prove to be convenient to people in their private and public transactions.

"What's his basis for coming up with a figure of P1.6 billion?" Lacson, who has filed a bill proposing a national ID system, told reporters, in reference to Casiño's statistics. "There's no basis at all."

Angara said Casiño's estimate was small compared with the P5 billion being spent for churning out other ID cards such as driver's license and Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System cards.

"Just imagine how much money we are spending just to get a residence certificate, a birth certificate, a passport, a driver's license, SSS card and GSIS card. That probably would cost P5 billion and now we are saying P1.6 billion, is too much?" Angara told reporters.

He said the national ID card was "cost-effective" and would help ordinary citizens in their private and public transactions because only a single card could be used for many purposes.

"Principally, the ID system is to facilitate the transaction by a citizen with either government or business or any other citizen because it saves him the time to pull out an ID that many agencies issue," he said.

Told that he and Lacson were both in favor of the national ID system, Angara quipped: "He has to follow the wiser guy."

Angara and Lacson are not on speaking terms after a vicious presidential race last year. Lacson, a presidential candidate, did not get the support of Angara, who backed Fernando Poe Jr.

Executive order

The two senators want Congress to legislate a law implementing the ID system.

But Senate President Franklin Drilon favors President Macapagal-Arroyo issuing an executive order "that will mandate the integration of all identification systems of the various government agencies."

Drilon met with Ms Arroyo the other day and proposed to her that she issue an executive order.

The President is "receptive" to the proposal and has directed her staff to study the matter, according to Drilon.

He said this was better than coming up with a new system that could be very controversial and expensive.

Impeachable offense

In Bacolod City, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez has warned that implementing an ID system at the provincial or national level is an impeachable offense.

"Provincial board members would be treading on dangerous grounds if they pass an ordinance implementing a provincial ID system," said Chavez who was in Bacolod City on Monday to attend a court hearing.

Chavez said there was no law authorizing the President to implement an ID system even at the local level. "We are a government of laws and not of men," he pointed out.

Ms Arroyo on Thursday asked provincial board members to adopt a provincial identification system while they were awaiting Congress to pass the antiterrorism law.

"Because one of the tools of terrorists is anonymity and mobility . . . with an ID system, we can deprive them of anonymity and mobility," Ms Arroyo told the 13th National Convention of Provincial Board Members held at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City.

Chavez said that if an ID system were implemented, he would question it before the Supreme Court because it would amount to an invasion of privacy.

He pointed out that the Supreme Court had struck down an executive order issued by former President Fidel Ramos creating an ID system.

"I am absolutely and unconditionally against a national ID system, especially if it is to be included in an antiterror bill because there is no logical connection," he said.

Romeo Baldevarona, acting chief of the Commission on Human Rights in Negros Occidental, said he was opposed to an ID system because it would affect one's right to privacy in violation of his human rights and of the Constitution.

"I do not believe an ID system could put a stop to terrorism," he said.

Local execs for ID system

The League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) are expected to pass separate resolutions supporting the implementation of the national ID system.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, president of the two organizations, said that based on his consultations with local officials, Ulap and LPP would favor the implementation of the ID system.

He said he would call separate meetings with the LPP national executive board and the Ulap board of directors in mid-March to discuss the issue.

The Ulap is composed of the different leagues of governors, vice governors, city mayors, city vice mayors, municipal mayors, municipal vice mayors, provincial board members, councilors and barangay captains.

Warrantless arrests

In the House of Representatives, three members of party-list organizations claim that the proposed national ID system was meant to build dossiers against members of the opposition and to effect warrantless arrests.

Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza said the system would encroach on a person's right to privacy and defeat the presumption of innocence of an individual.

She said an individual who failed to present an ID could be considered a fugitive from justice or a terrorist by accosting officers.

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said the ID system would not help thwart terrorism but would encourage warrantless arrests and intensify surveillance.

For her part, Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros urged Malacañang to set aside more funds for education.

"Instead of the government spending millions of dollars to create identification cards, it should put each and every Filipino child to institutions of learning," Hontiveros said.

She chided Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes and Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye for assuming that those who opposed the proposal "have something to hide."

She noted that it was during the term of Reyes as Armed Forces chief of staff and defense secretary that failed intelligence work and reckless military assaults had taken place.

Bunye likened the national ID system to the "No ID no entry" rule imposed by schools and offices.

"These guidelines were adopted for the security of students and personnel to ensure that anyone who enters [schools and offices] are duly recognized by the ID," Bunye said.

Bunye assured that the national ID system would have safeguards in place to address the legal objections raised by the Supreme Court.

Separate measures

In Davao City, House Majority Leader and Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles said Congress should tackle the antiterror and the national ID bills separately because the objectives of the two measures "are very distinct."

Nograles said the antiterror bill was designed to equip law enforcement and intelligence authorities with the legal platform to track down, identify and neutralize suspected terrorists.

He said the national ID system was "only a comprehensive identification system, which is useful for doing transactions with the government."

But Nograles admitted that the national ID system could also be used by authorities to help them in the anticrime and antiterror campaign.

He said a national ID system would provide authorities "a wealth of information," which may be necessary in building a nationwide anticrime database.

"The ID system will make it easier for authorities to track down criminals because it will become nearly impossible for them to be using fake identities while moving from one place to another," Nograles said. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and Gil Cabacungan Jr. in Manila; Carla P. Gomez and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

No Presidential Medal of Merit to FPJ, after all

From page A1

posthumous awards to family members of the composer George Canseco (for music) and of stage director Zeneida Amador (for theater) in a ceremony at the Rizal Hall in Malacañang.

The award was received for Canseco by his son, Dr. Carl Canseco, and for Amador by her brother, lawyer Antonio Amador.

Cecile Guidote Alvarez, presidential adviser on culture and executive director of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, offered the award to Poe's family during his wake last December.

Yesterday, Alvarez tried to justify Poe's exclusion by saying that the actor had already been nominated by the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas) and the Movie Workers Welfare Fund (Mowelfund) for the National Artist Award in 2006.

"The President respects the process," she said.

Alvarez said she had raised the idea of conferring on Poe a Presidential Medal of Merit only because his supporters wanted him to be immediately conferred the National Artist Award.

She said conferring on Poe the National Artist Award was not possible at that time because it was governed by a process of nomination and selection.

Alvarez pointed out that some Poe supporters had rejected the presidential medal and put "political color" in Ms Arroyo's desire to honor "Da King" of Philippine Movies and her chief rival in the May 2004 presidential election.

"When an award is given, it must be accepted," Alvarez said.

As huge crowds of fans and supporters turned up for Poe's wake, Malacanang dangled the presidential medal and even offered a burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

But Poe's furious supporters spurned the gesture. A number of them set fire to a wreath sent by Ms Arroyo.

'They deserved it'

Alvarez admitted that the political rift created by the bitter rivalry between the camps of Ms Arroyo and Poe had yet to be healed: *"Kailangang palamigin pa."*

But she insisted that Ms Arroyo was not denying Poe any award.

She said the Presidential Medal of Merit was given to Canseco and Amador because they deserved it.

"We want to focus on Canseco and Amador. They deserve their own moment of glory because if we have FPJ, they will be overshadowed," she said.

According to Alvarez, Poe is already being honored by his peers and the industry and is awaiting recognition as a national artist.

"So how can they still say he is being denied recognition?" she said.

A HIGHER AUTHORITY ERIK ARAZAS

Director General Edgar Aglipay (left) recites The Lord's Prayer with National Capital Region police chief Director Avelino Razon, Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong (2nd and 3rd from left) and other officers during Mass in Manila.

Intelligence cop on stakeout killed

By Tarra V. Quismundo

INCOGNITO amid the busy Quiapo crowd on Monday afternoon, SPO1 Antonio Arzala was with four other intelligence officers on a surveillance operation when a bullet struck him down.

It was at about 5 p.m., while the lawmen were staking out against members of a robbery gang, when gunshots rang out.

Suddenly, Arzala fell and struggled for breath while he laid on Basan Street, a side street behind Quinta Market near the bank of the Pasig River.

Bullet in the side

A bullet had pierced his left arm and punctured his left side.

The 47-year-old member of the Western Police District Police Intelligence Unit (DPIU) died on the way to the hospital, ending his 26-year career in law enforcement.

"The assailants may have recognized the policemen through the asset (informant) who was with them. *Inunahan na sila* (They were beaten to the draw)," said Senior Insp. Dominador Arevalo Jr., WPD Homicide Section chief.

Arzala, SPO3 Reynold Salguero, SPO2 Danilo Javier, PO3 Emmanuel Laforteza and PO2 Gualben Tura were in Quiapo shortly after lunch the other day for a surveillance operation, a pre-operation report of the DPIU indicated.

In plain clothes, the men took positions on Quezon Boulevard and Basan Street, guided by an informant who was also from the area, said Arevalo.

Suspects nearby

Arzala and Tura positioned themselves on Basan Street under Quezon Bridge, when their asset told them that the men they were looking for were close by.

But three suspects, one known only as Ollay Batal and two other unidentified men, began shooting at the policemen.

Investigators have yet to determine whether the DPIU men returned fire.

"They [assailants] may either be the robbers they were looking for, or are connected with the group. We would be undertaking operations to find the suspects, and we would use the SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics Unit) if we have to," said Arevalo.

Manhunt

Arzala's fellow DPIU men immediately conducted a manhunt around the crime scene, in search of the three men who escaped after killing the longtime policeman.

With the operations failing to bring in suspects, WPD Station 3 operatives and SWAT teams conducted another round of follow up operations at about 5 a.m. yesterday.

"We rounded up 89 men from the Basan and Quezon Boulevard areas, but now only eight of them are left detained," said Supt. Romulo Sapitula, Station 3 chief.

Sapitula said the eight men would undergo further investigation, as more checking would have to be done to verify whether the men were clear of any criminal charges.

"They had no identification papers, and no one could [vouch for] their character. We were on hot pursuit when we went there this morning, and we went for selected targets," Sapitula said over the phone yesterday.

Units involved

The Sta. Cruz Station would be coordinating with the WPD Homicide Section and the DPIU in going after Arzala's killers, said Sapitula.

Posted with the DPIU in September last year, Arzala had served under the police anticarnapping unit in Camp Crame, the highway patrol unit in Bicutan, the WPD Station 1 and Task Force Galugad. The policeman from San Ramon Street, Tondo, left behind four children.

In October last year, another WPD policeman, PO2 Reynaldo Andres, died while trying to apprehend a robber on Romualdez Street in Ermita, Manila. He was killed a few days after Supt. Manolo Martinez, WPD Station 4 chief, was ambushed in Sta. Mesa and Sr. Insp. Emmanuel Sanchez was stabbed to death with his wife in Parañaque City.

Jeep drivers fed up with long line

By Margaux C. Ortiz

ENOUGH of the long lines.

A group of jeepney operators have come forward and expressed support for the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) three embattled traffic schemes.

"We are now gathering the necessary evidence supporting the MMDA's schemes, especially the Metropolitan Traffic Ticket (MTT)," said Obet Martin, Pangkalahatang Sanggunian Manila and Suburbs Drivers Association Nationwide, Inc. (Pasang Masda).

Martin said that since the MMDA reverted back to the Traffic Violation Receipt scheme following the Makati Regional Trial Court's issuance of a temporary restraining order, their drivers have been "ceaselessly complaining about the long lines at the agency's redemption center."

"Motorists had an easy time when the MTT was still in place," Martin said, adding that the scheme gave them "convenience and freedom."

Martin also said that Pasang Masda had the support of nine Metro Manila jeepney federations included in the Congress of National Transport Organizations of the Philippines.

The jeepney operator also said that beginning next week, they would be putting up streamers expressing support for the MMDA's MTT scheme on 20,000 of their jeepney units plying the metropolis.

The MTT was suspended after transport groups questioned it in court.

Cainta scores a round in mall row with Pasig

By Luige A. del Puerto

AT LEAST, some leg room.

The Pasig City Regional Trial Court yesterday ordered Cainta and Pasig City to maintain the "status quo" in their boundary dispute over the property where the Sta. Lucia Mall stands.

"Considering the information that tension is brewing that could result in violence among the parties, the parties are hereby directed to observe a status quo until further order from the court," said the decision of Judge Esperanza Fabon-Victorino of Branch 157.

Cainta has filed a motion to quash a writ of execution that the court issued early this month.

This means that, for the meantime, Sta Lucia Mall and its tenants would still have to go to the Cainta municipal hall to get a business permit or pay taxes.

"This is very welcome development," Cainta Mayor Mon Ilagan said. "We hope it would be like this until this case is resolved."

Ilagan said the order had eased tension in the mall. Both local governments have already set up action centers in the commercial complex to the confusion of tenants.

Pasig City Mayor Vicente "Enteng" Eusebio said the city would obey the court order.

"I have not seen the order, but if the court has indeed issued that, we will follow it," he said. "We have no problem with that. We will follow what is ordered."

Eusebio added that Pasig City was "not in a hurry to get the revenues from the mall."

"It's not our bread and butter. We are not in a hurry," Eusebio said on the phone, referring to the taxes and business permit fees derived from Sta. Lucia.

Eusebio maintained that the city is not just after the money.

"We are after what we believe is rightfully ours," he said. Pasig officials believe that the land where Sta. Lucia stands is within the city's boundaries.

Obando officials oppose mayor on Tanza dump

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THEIR top local officials may be against the operation of a controlled garbage facility in neighboring Navotas, but left with no authorized dump of their own, barangay chairs in Obando, Bulacan, are setting their on eyes on the controversial facility.

He had heard about the idea but Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said he had not received any formal letter from Obando yet.

Just in case, he said the facility in Barangay Tanza could still accommodate Obando. "I don't see any problem with that," he added.

Obando Mayor Zoilito Santiago confirmed that nine of the 11 barangay chairs in the town had signed a resolution asking him to negotiate with Navotas and the private operator of the facility for the possibility of Obando dumping its garbage on the facility.

The resolution will have to pass through the Obando municipal council for approval but Santiago said he remained strongly opposed to the facility—his battle cry during the last elections.

"I stand by my convictions," he said. Other councilors are also against the facility.

Obando used to have open dumps but these had to close when Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act was passed in 2000.

Higinia Llantada; 87

HIGINIA Ericta Llantada died on Feb. 20. She was 87. She is survived by her children Jay and Techie, Vicky and Henrik Mauritsen, Tony and Cynthia, and Bobby, grandchildren Martin and Thomas, Angelique and Makko, and sister Natividad E. Blas. Relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in the Sta. Rita Parish Church, Philam Homes, Quezon City. Interment will be on Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Novaliches, Quezon City, after the 8 a.m. Mass.

TOSHIBA

Ultimate mobility, wireless style.

Astoundingly thin and light at only 1.09kg, Toshiba's award-winning PORTÉGÉ range of notebooks ensures you'll always be on the go. Get wired for success from any of the wireless hotspots around and experience the freedom of wireless computing now with Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology.

Toshiba recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional.

PORTÉGÉ R100
Toshiba's thinnest notebook.

- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
  Intel® Pentium® M Processor Ultra-Low Voltage 733 (1.10GHz, 2MB Cache, 400MHz FSB), Intel® PRO/Wireless Network Connection 802.11g
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Doctor
- 12.1" (30.7cm) Poly-Silicon XGA TFT display for a wider viewing angle and higher reliability
- 256MB DDR SDRAM
- 40GB HDD with shock absorber
- SD Slot, 2 x USB 2.0
- Li-Ion Polymer high-capacity battery with up to 8.5 hours battery life in SuperLongLife mode
- One-touch expansion convenience with optional Slim Port Replicator
- Premium silver magnesium alloy chassis at 1.09kg
- 3-Year carry-in International Limited Warranty (parts and labor)

P124,990

FREE!
- External Combo Drive
- Canon BJC-55 Mobile Printer
- 3 Stylish PORTÉGÉ Slip Cases

Total Worth: P34,000
Promotion period: Feb 23 to Mar 19

Toshiba Global Support Centre

For warranty and technical support, please call 24x7 toll-free: 1800 165 10441

Toshiba Mobile Computing Partner:
Tricom Dynamics, Inc. www.tricom.com.ph.
MAKATI Metro House Bldg., 345 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Tel: 890-6525 to 32 Fax: 890-0698 • CEBU Tel: 253-6517; 232-6391 Fax: 231-0681 • DAVAO Tel: 227-4137 to 38 Fax: 227-4147 • CAGAYAN DE ORO Tel: 22-733-158; 855-5388 Fax: 22-733-273

shopToshiba Reseller:
shopToshiba @ Complink Cyberzone, SM City North EDSA North Avenue corner EDSA, Quezon City 920-9140 to 41 or 929-2894

Authorized Dealers:

centrino
MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

PORTÉGÉ
Choose freedom.
www.pc.toshiba-asia.com

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe Jr.
Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

EZ2	SUERTRES	SIX DIGIT	6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min	SWEEPSTAKES
13 29	2 9 7	9 9 6 0 7 3	2 3 21 23 34 42	4 4 8 5 2 7 L
		(In exact order)	₱23,578,331.70	₱100,000.00

MRT 3 to hike minimum fare to ₱10

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE METRO Rail Transit 3 is inclined to raise its minimum fare from P9.50 to P10 in a bid to restructure its rates to take advantage of vending machines that had not been used because of the existing fare scheme.

MRT 3 General Manager Roberto Lastimoso said the plan was to restructure and scrap the 50-centavo "excess" in the existing fare matrix.

The fare for the full stretch will stay at P15.

The new fare scheme would be implemented once the transportation department approves the plan.

Lastimoso said the MRT 3 does not expect any additional revenues from the fare restructuring, but it could reduce the queuing at the ticket booths.

The railway system running from North Edsa to the Baclaran station on Taft Avenue, as well as the Light Railway Transit, have pending petitions for a P10 increase.

Lastimoso added that the MRT 3 should not have a hard time getting approval for the fare restructuring.

MRT 3 spokesperson Mariano Gui said the vending machines were not programmed to dispense loose change. "We have about 30 machines that were not utilized," he said, adding that the vending machines cost about P1 million each.

Gui said there could be a two percent increase in revenues because of the restructuring.

Lastimoso said the new scheme would result in four fare zones, but he would not elaborate since he did not have a copy of the proposed matrix.

The MRT 3 would have an easier time implementing the P10 increase once it is approved. Lastimoso said the government was just waiting for an appropriate time to increase the railway fare.

Close to 800,000 commuters ride the MRT 3, LRT and LRT 2 everyday.

The MRT 3 alone carries an average of 430,000 passengers daily, and generates about P120 million in monthly revenues.

But Lastimoso said its revenues were still P60 million short of what was needed to pay the monthly rental to Metro Railway Transit Corp., the private consortium that built the MRT 3 and leased the facility to the government before transferring its ownership after 25 years.

Under the pending fare increase petition, the railway agency sought to increase the minimum fare to P16 for the first three stations.

For the succeeding three stations, each commuter would have to pay an additional P3, bringing the maximum fare from the current rate of P15 to P25.

Train authorities cited the increased costs of maintenance, particularly of electricity that runs the train systems.

Power accounts for about 30 percent of the railway system's operations.

'Good' deed did not pay for policeman

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HE SAID he just wanted to help.

Now PO1 Russel Alfonso of the Northern Police District mobile force is in hot water after he was accused of helping his friend, identified only as "Ryan," abduct a woman. Ryan allegedly raped the woman later.

The woman said Alfonso also took her cell phone. But while Alfonso is in jail, his alleged friend remains at large. Asked his version of the story, the policeman broke into tears as he denied the allegations. "I am not a criminal," he said.

The woman, owner of a bingo house in Caloocan City, told police that Alfonso and Ryan forced her to get on a motorcycle about 1 a.m. on Saturday. Alfonso allegedly introduced himself as a Caloocan City policeman and wanted to find out if her business was legal. But Alfonso dropped off Ryan and her at a motel in Barangay Bagong Barrio, the woman said.

According to Caloocan City Police investigation chief Napoleon Cuaton's report, Ryan allegedly raped the woman several times inside the motel, resting only to sniff shabu. The woman managed to escape at around 3 a.m. Monday. Yesterday morning, she reported the incident to the police.

Alfonso, for his part, said he first met Ryan in a casino. On Friday night, Ryan had asked him if he could pawn his cell phone to the policeman because he had ran out of money.

After agreeing, Alfonso took Ryan to his house, got money from his wife, and brought Ryan back to the casino. Later, Ryan asked for more money and told the policeman to take him to the motel to get the woman's cell phone. Ryan apparently wanted to get back his phone and exchange it with the woman's phone. Alfonso drove Ryan to the motel but the woman was not there. Ryan again asked Alfonso to bring him to the woman's bingo house where he found the woman and told her that Ryan was outside. About 1 a.m., Saturday, the two asked Alfonso to drive them back to the motel. The woman also gave Alfonso her phone, which he later brought to a pawnshop, the policeman said.

Faulty brakes hurt firemen on mission

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TWO FIREMEN were hurt when the brakes on their fire truck malfunctioned as they were responding to a blaze in Makati City yesterday afternoon.

FO3 Bienvenido Tallada and SFO1 Wilfredo Baguyot sustained minor injuries after the brakes of the fire truck Tallada was driving failed, according to SFO1 Reynaldo Gonzales.

Gonzales said the firemen were on their way back to a burning apartment building at 7774 St. Paul St., San Antonio Village, after refilling from the main fire station when Tallada lost control of the fire truck.

Concrete post

The vehicle then rammed a concrete post on Yakal Street.

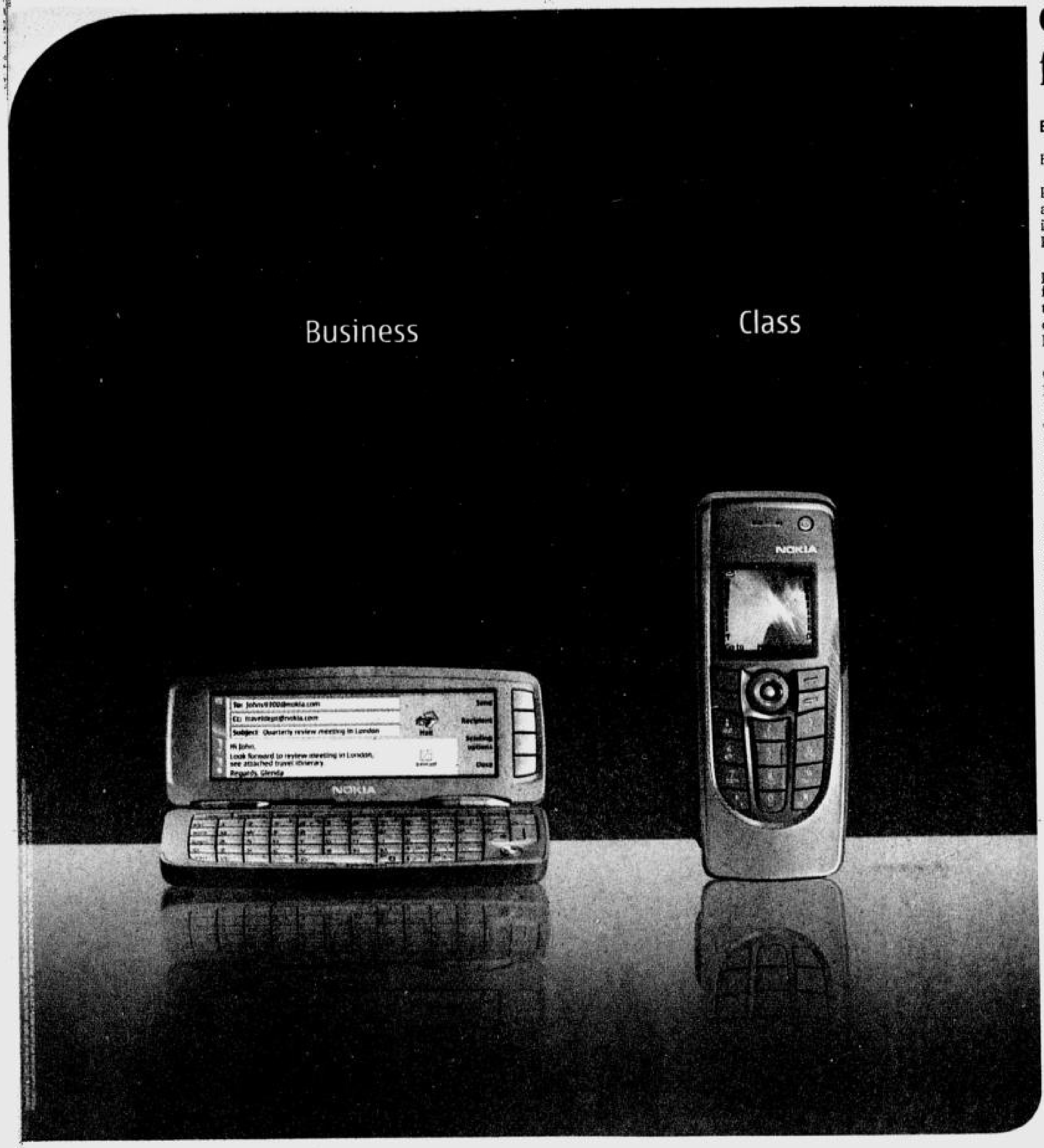
Tallada and Baguyot were brought to the Ospital ng Makati for treatment, Gonzales said.

The fire, which began at 12:30 p.m., originated inside a unit occupied by Radeep Sehwani, an Indian.

Gonzales said the fire may have been caused by an unattended appliance unit.

The fire razed two other apartment units and partially damaged two others, destroying an estimated P2 million worth of property.

The fire bureau declared a fire out at 2:24 p.m., Gonzales said.



www.nokia.com.ph

NOKIA
Connecting People

Complement your lifestyle and enhance your business with the new and stylish Nokia 9300.

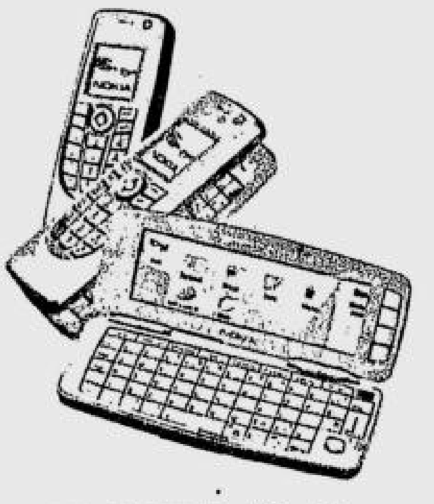
Full QWERTY Keyboard with 8 Application Shortcut Keys • 80 MB Internal Phone Memory plus FREE 128 MB Hot-Swap MMC • HTML/xHTML Browser • Video & Audio Streaming • GPRS/EDGE Connectivity

Other features: Clamshell with User-changeable Xpress-on™ A-cover • Two 65,536 Color Screens
Bluetooth • Infrared • Tri-band

E-mail with Attachments
Office Tools (Excel, Word & PowerPoint)
Personal Information Manager (PIM)
Easy-to-Navigate Menu

Hurry! Get the Nokia 9300 and receive a free Laptop Bag worth P2,000 from Nokia Stores and Nokia Professional Centers. Promo is until Feb. 28, 2005 only.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0244, Series of 2005.

Buy a Nokia 9300 and be one of the privileged Nokia Elite members.
For more details, call the Nokia Careline at (02) 686-1234.



NOKIA 9300
LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Available at the following Nokia Stores and Professional Centers:

Globotel
All Branches
Tel: 888-0104

Pines Multi Telecom Shop
72 Session Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 442-4718

Memo Express
All Branches
Tel: 243-9461 to 64

Megacellular
3rd Level, Robinsons Mall
Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tel: (049) 837-1176

Hello
4th Level, Robinsons Galleria
Mandaluyong City
Tel. 636-7590

Semicon
All Branches
Tel. 681-4965

As an assurance of quality, purchase only from authorized Nokia Distributors/Dealers. For inquiries, call the Nokia Careline at (02) 686-1234.

BASKETBALL: NBA—Raptors vs Nets; 8:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports - Vince Carter faces his old team when New Jersey hosts Toronto.
US NCAA—Texas vs Texas Tech; 9 a.m.; Notre Dame vs UConn; 3:30 p.m. (r); ESPN—The Longhorns visit the Red Raiders in the Big Twelve even as the Fighting Irish try to upset the Huskies.

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

DURALITE SANDALS
SYMPHONY
Sa tibay, hindi basta-basta bumibigay.

■ Tams stop Maroons; Warriors gain semifinals /A26
■ Tigers, Lady Archers triumph /A27

■ Annika files for divorce from Esch /A28
■ Agassi advances in Dubai Open /A28

BUSTAMANTE sets tone of the match by winning three straight racks.

Gabica stuns Reyes; Django easily gains

By Marlon Bernardino, *Contributor*

EFREN "Bata" Reyes' worst fear came true. He was beaten by Antonio "Gaga" Gabica last night.

Before the start of the Hope P1-Million All-Filipino Billiards Open, Reyes said he's wary of local players more than foreigners because of their intense desire to topple him at home.

It turned out he was right as Gabica, the reigning Philippine 9-Ball champion, blanked Reyes for five straight racks en route to a stunning 9-4 victory at the IBC 13 studios in Quezon City.

Reyes' first defeat in two games sent shock waves to the other acknowledged cue masters, including bosom buddy Francisco "Django" Bustamante, the world's No.1 last year.

Facing promising Jeffrey "Young Bata" de Luna, Bustamante used his vast international experience to hack out a 9-4 victory in the afternoon games at the AMF Puyat Billiard Hall in Ever Gotesco Mall Commonwealth branch in Quezon City.

"*Ganyan talaga ang laro, may talo* (That's how the game goes, sometimes you lose)," said the 50-year-old Reyes, the game's top money earner last year.

While admitting that he got lucky on the break, Gabica said he also felt confident that he could beat his godfather (Reyes) because he was hitting his shots very well.

The defeat relegated Reyes to the loser's side where he's slated to meet Joven Alba today.

Gabica, who dumped another seeded player in Warren Kiamco (9-7) in the opening round Monday, will be facing the winner of the Lee Vann Corteza- Rodolfo Luat tussle being held at presstime.

After winning the lag, the Biel, Germany-based Bustamante scored three consecutive racks to set the tone of the lopsided match.

De Luna, the youngest qualifier at 20, rallied to within 3-2 only to watch Bustamante take the next two racks for a 5-2 edge.

Undaunted, De Luna, who got the Young Bata tag because of his penchant for trick shots like his idol Reyes, again closed in at 6-4.

A scratch after a shot at the No. 2 ball in the 11th rack, however, doomed De Luna's upset bid as Bustamante cleaned up the table and proceeded to seal the win.

"*May future y'ung bata (De Luna), nakikita ko ng aking kabataan sa kanya* (The kid has a bright future, I was like him in my younger years)," said Bustamante.

In other matches, Warren Kiamco defeated Carlo Viado, 9-4; Edgar Acaba beat Luis Saberdo, 9-5; while Roberto Dy defeated Leonardo Andam, 9-4. Alex Pagulayan was leading Gandy Valle, 6-4, at presstime. Joven Alba won by default over Marlon Manalo.

HONEY MOON
LOVE POTION FOR MEN
HONEY MOON TEA (instant tea) is a natural love potion formulated exclusively for men which helps ignite sensuality making every intimate moment feels like a Honeymoon. Its well-blended Chinese herbs are also known to fight fatigue and bring back energy to help release tightness and stress.
LAGING HANDA
AVOID EMBARRASSMENT & FRUSTRATION
防止尴尬和失意

Try and do it, Pacquiao admonishes Morales

By Recah Trinidad

BY ALL means, let him try and do it.

Manny Pacquiao could not help but exclaim in both amazement in glee yesterday when told that Erik Morales has been advised by his younger brother to jumpstart, take the fight to his foe, and pressure the Filipino world boxing celebrity in Las Vegas on March 19.

"*Mali sila, mali, ha, ha.* (They're grossly mistaken), Pacquiao responded in a booming voice when interviewed over the phone by the INQUIRER from his $4,000 (P219,500)-a-month apartment in Hollywood.

No, Pacquiao did not say it, but he clearly suggested it would be suicide on the part of Morales if he heeds the tip of his brother, bantamweight Diego Morales, ranked No. 1 contender by the WBC and No. 3 by the WBA.

It was the last ploy they should have thought of, Pacquiao tried to explain.

"Erik should move toward Pacquiao's right side and press the action," Diego, a southpaw and former WBO super flyweight champ, had told Box-Latino.

With their contrasting styles, experts believe Morales could enhance his chances against the exciting, hard-hitting Pacquiao if he emphasizes on his experience and ringmanship.

In fact, Erik Morales had been saying that Pacquiao, whom he belittled as one-dimensional, may not be able to adapt to situations inside the ring.

It's also open knowledge that the greatest dimension in Pacquiao's raging-bull style is his fierceness. He thrives on toe-to -toe, devil-may-care situations.

This is the reason Pacquiao had doubted Morales would follow the advice of his sibling.

PACQUIAO in training: *Mali sila*!

Marksman Mundo new commish

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE RESHUFFLING continues at the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC).

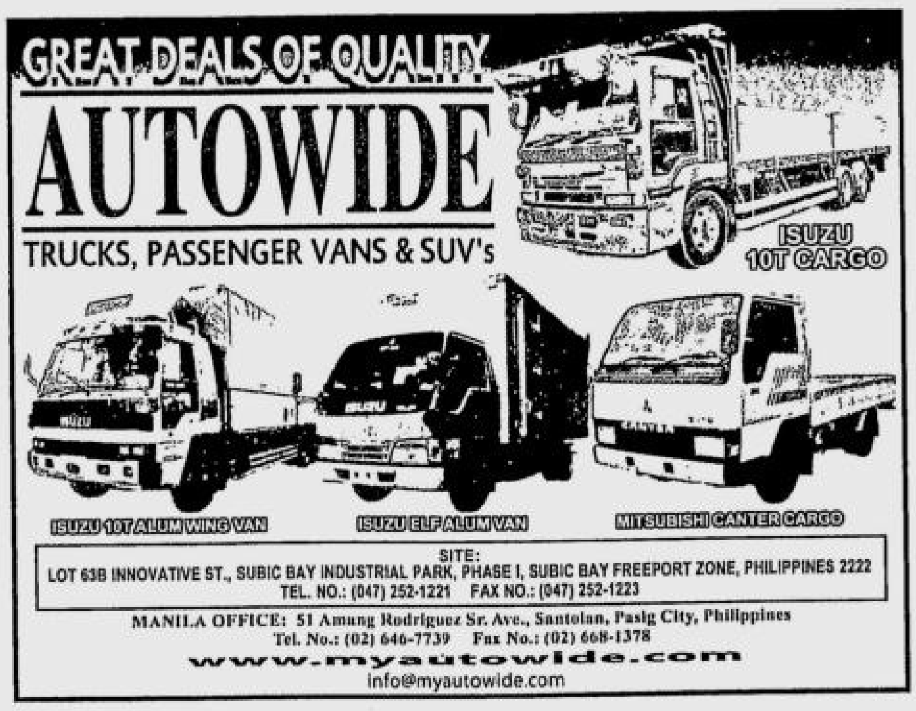
Joey Mundo, a veteran shooter and executive vice president of the Philippine National Shooting Association, took over as PSC commissioner yesterday, replacing Mike Barredo.

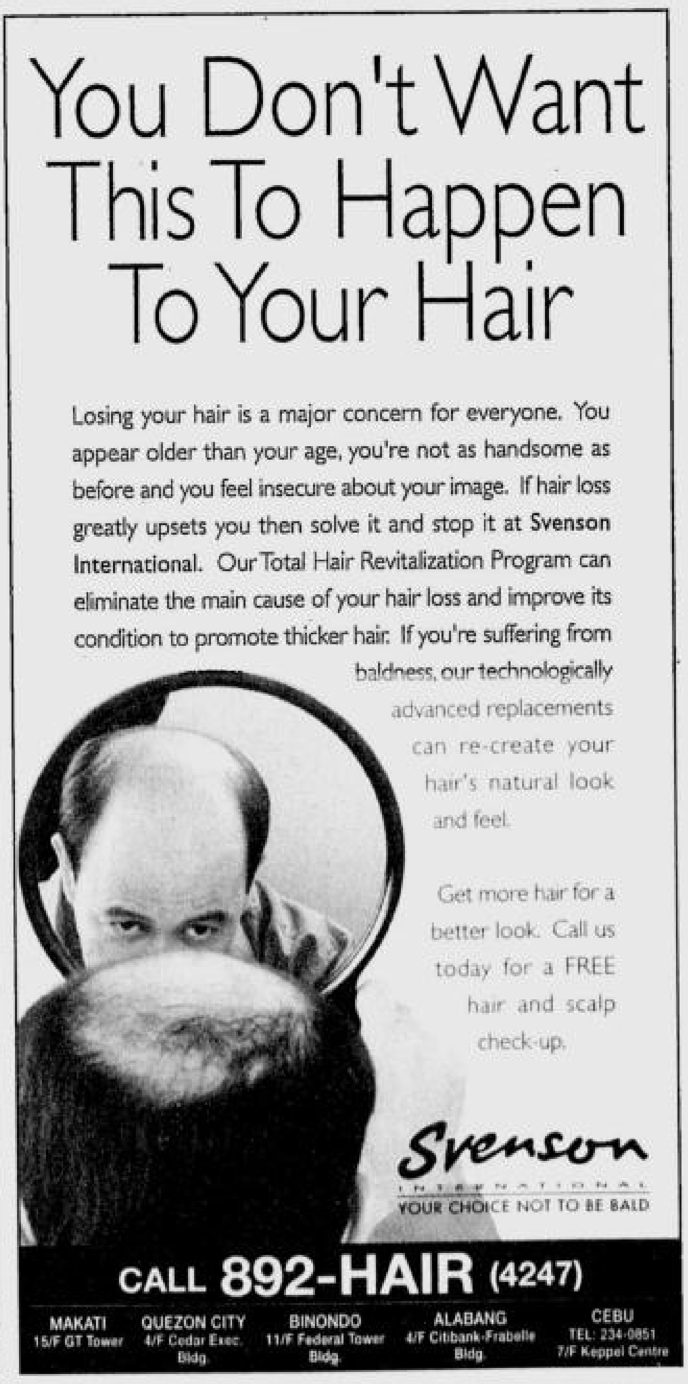
"I still have to get myself acquainted with a lot of things," said the 56-year-old Mundo. "But among my priorities is sports development. We need to develop more sports that have medal potentials like athletics, swimming and shooting."

Barredo admitted the sudden administrative change caught him by surprise.

"I knew there will be some movements but

MARKSMAN/ A26


GREAT DEALS OF QUALITY
AUTOWIDE
TRUCKS, PASSENGER VANS & SUV's
ISUZU 10T CARGO
ISUZU 10T ALUM WING VAN
ISUZU ELF ALUM VAN
MITSUBISHI CANTER CARGO
SITE:
LOT 63B INNOVATIVE ST., SUBIC BAY INDUSTRIAL PARK, PHASE I, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, PHILIPPINES 2222
TEL. NO.: (047) 252-1221 FAX NO.: (047) 252-1223
MANILA OFFICE: 51 Amang Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Santolan, Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. No.: (02) 646-7739 Fax No.: (02) 668-1378
www.myautowide.com
info@myautowide.com


You Don't Want This To Happen To Your Hair

Losing your hair is a major concern for everyone. You appear older than your age, you're not as handsome as before and you feel insecure about your image. If hair loss greatly upsets you then solve it and stop it at Svenson International. Our Total Hair Revitalization Program can eliminate the main cause of your hair loss and improve its condition to promote thicker hair. If you're suffering from baldness, our technologically advanced replacements can re-create your hair's natural look and feel.

Get more hair for a better look. Call us today for a FREE hair and scalp check-up.

Svenson INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD
CALL 892-HAIR (4247)
MAKATI 15/F GT Tower
QUEZON CITY 4/F Cedar Exec. Bldg.
BINONDO 11/F Federal Tower Bldg.
ALABANG 4/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.
CEBU TEL: 234-0851 7/F Keppel Centre

PETRON
CHANGE OIL TO CASH SA
Ultron REV-X OIL FOR A Million
BUMILI NA NG ULTRON O REV-X, HANAPIN ANG STICKER, NG LUBE PACKS AT GADGETS WEEKLY, P100,000 MONTHLY
I-SCRATCH AT I-TEXT ANG CODE AT MANALO AT 1 MILLION PESOS SA GRAND DRAW!
Promo runs from November 15, 2004 to May 15, 2005. See posters and flyers for details.
SAMSUNG
PETRON 6823888A/ Al Dy/ 1 Dalia St. Cubao, Q.C.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2467 Series of 2004

Tams stop Maroons; Warriors gain semis

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WITH just enough defensive stop in the endgame, defending champion Far Eastern University showed University of the Philippines the door with a 58-56 decision to gain a semifinal berth in the 3rd Collegiate Champions League at the FEU gym.

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Makati Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Phil. Christian U vs Univ. of East
4 p.m.—Far Eastern vs Univ. of Visayas

The Tamaraws forged ahead with still 46 seconds left and stayed on top for good by forcing the Maroons to miss three attempts in the final 22 seconds.

FEU thus sealed a semifinal encounter with University of Visayas tomorrow at the Makati Coliseum.

It will be University of the East against Philippine Christian University, the reigning NCAA champion, in the other semifinal duel after the Warriors disposed of University of Perpetual Help-Rizal, 71-59.

Mark Borboran shot 18 points and Bonbon Custodio added 10 as the Warriors scored their third straight victory after slipping past San Beda and University of Cebu.

Earl Saguindel added eight points and the same number of assists for the Warriors, who led by as much as 19 points, 58-39, in the third quarter.

RJ Rizada scored nine of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, including a three-pointer opening the period, while Denok Miranda contributed 11 points for the Tamaraws

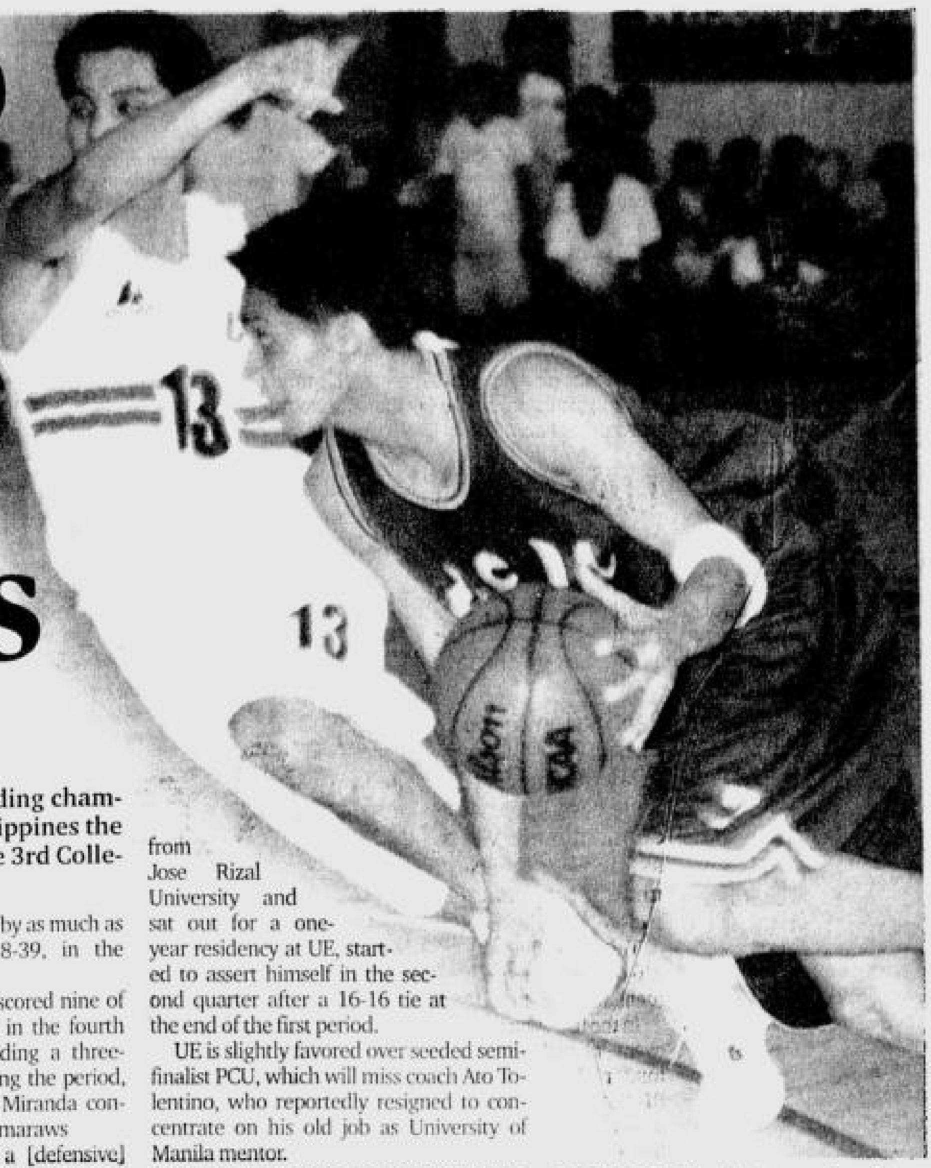
"They held us up with a [defensive] stop, so I told the boys that maybe we can stop them also to preserve our lead," said FEU coach Bert Flores. "It was hard to beat them so I guess the team with the better defense won."

While FEU failed to make a single attempt in the last 46 seconds, the Tamaraws gave the Maroons a dose of their own medicine by throwing a half-court press that preserved their slim winning margin.

The Warriors totally dominated the Altas as the 6-foot-4 Borboran, acquired from Jose Rizal University and sat out for a one-year residency at UE, started to assert himself in the second quarter after a 16-16 tie at the end of the first period.

UE is slightly favored over seeded semifinalist PCU, which will miss coach Ato Tolentino, who reportedly resigned to concentrate on his old job as University of Manila mentor.

The tournament is sponsored by Petron, Smart Addict, PCSO, Air21, adidas, Glaxo SKF, Wilson and Pascual Laboratories.



RJ RIZADA of Far Eastern makes his move against a UP defender in yesterday's game. RYAN LIM

The scores:

First Game

UE 71—Borboran 18, Custodio 10, Arellano 9, Palaganas 9, Saguindel 8, Labagala 6, Raymundo 6, Canizares 3, Napo 2, Alastoy 0, Lapena 0.

UPHR 59—Balboa 18, Cuenco 12, Bauzon 9, Misa 5, Javier 4, Refuerzo 4, Mendoza 2, Apor 2, Racho 0, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 16-16, 39-25, 58-42, 71-59

Second Game

FEU 58—Rizada 17, Santos 12, Miranda 11, Mangahas 8, Barcellano 4, Flores 3, Chan 4, Villanueva 3, Isip 2, Dela Cruz 0.

UP 56—Cervantez 13, Santos 12, Ibanes 12, Cruz 9, Ipres 5, David 2, Buyco 1, Gomez 1, Ferrer 0, Agbayano 1, Ortega 0.

Quarters: 9-13, 26-28, 44-46, 58-56.

Taulava lawyer still at it

ASI Taulava doesn't want to turn the Philippine Basketball Association into one big mess, but his lawyer continued to criticize the league and the Department of Justice over the citizenship issue of his client.

"Asi doesn't want to create trouble," said lawyer Eduardo Francisco. "He just wants to protect his rights as a Filipino."

The justice department had already ruled last year that Taulava faked his citizenship and recently came out with findings that certain people allegedly faked the papers of the US-raised cager with Tongan roots to gain eligibility in the PBA.

The controversy has turned into a long-drawn legal battle highlighted by Taulava's suspension and the forfeiture of a Talk 'N Text win during the finals of the Philippine Cup eventually won by Barangay Ginebra.

"We don't want to generate sympathies here," said Francisco during the PSA Forum sponsored by Red Bull, Supermax and Pagcor. "He just wants to be given a chance to support his family, and perhaps, play for the national team again."

Taulava remains suspended by the PBA as one of six foreign-born players tabbed by the DOJ and the Bureau of Immigration (BI) as having no Filipino roots.

A Quezon City regional trial court had ordered the league to lift its suspension, claiming that Taulava has sufficient proof to back his claim of Filipino lineage, but PBA commissioner Noli Eala filed a motion for reconsideration.

The court denied the PBA appeal and Eala elevated the case to the Court of Appeals (CA).

"I hope commissioner Eala would be man enough this time to honor his word should the CA again deny his petition," said Francisco. "The last time, he was quoted as saying that he will abide by whatever is the court decision on the motion of reconsideration he filed. And yet the next thing we knew, he went to the CA when the motion was denied."

Francisco said his client would likely snub a subpoena issued by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez for a preliminary investigation into Taulava's citizenship.

"We have yet to receive the summon but once we do, we'll inhibit ourselves," said Taulava's lawyer. "How can you expect an impartial investigation when from the very beginning, Secretary Gonzalez already judged Asi as not being Filipino."

Marksman Mundo new commish

From page A25

this is a surprise," said Barredo, who served as commissioner for three years.

He was informed only yesterday afternoon of the appointment of Mundo, who ranks next to Arturo Macapagal, an elder brother of President Macapagal-Arroyo, in the shooting association.

"But I'm sure there's wisdom behind the President's decision," he added.

Barredo will stay on as chair of the Asean Paragames, a biennial sports event for differently abled athletes, which will also be held in Manila a week after the Southeast Asian Games.

Mundo joins a PSC team now headed by officer-in-charge Butch Ramirez after former chair Eric Buhain was moved to the Games and Amusements Board as chair.

Although Mundo's appointment came only nine months before the SEA Games, the former Olympian isn't worried.

"I had no hesitation in accepting the position," said Mundo, who set a national record in the 50-meter rifle prone event in the 1982 Olympics. The feat earned him the first medallion of excellence from the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Mundo, an economics graduate at the University of the Philippines, admitted he didn't expect to be taking on a bigger role in Philippine sports.

"It's good that I'll be able to give something back to the country," he said.

No end in sight for billiards row

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE ONLY thing the warring officials of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines agree on is the need for an election.

Outside of that, there seems to be no room for an amicable settlement.

BSCP president Ernie Fajardo and secretary general Joaquin Perez de Tagle could not agree on the association's election procedures during the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) forum yesterday at the Manila Pavillion.

The issue is headed to the Philippine Olympic Committee for arbitration.

Fajardo would like to expand the membership of the board prior to an election, while De Tagle insisted that the BSCP abide by its constitution which allows only the existing board members to vote.

"We cannot change the rules in the middle of the game," said De Tagle.

Fajardo is calling for a meeting on Feb. 28 to discuss the expansion of membership and scheduling of elections. But De Tagle, he said, has been uncooperative.

"The problem is lack of communication," said Fajardo, who has held the top BSCP post since 1992. "I've been trying to contact Mr. de Tagle but he has been ignoring my calls and text messages. I'd like to arrange a board meeting but we can't even sit down and plot a program."

Early reports noted that De Tagle seems interested in taking over BSCP's top post. But he dismissed the insinuations.

"I'm not aspiring to be president," he said. "The issue here is just the election and it has veered away."

Naval, Lorenzo power NWTC's wushu romp

NATIONAL Wushu Training Center's talented bets emerged overall champions in the first WFP (Wushu Federation of the Philippines) national age group championships by bagging five gold and one silver medals last Sunday at the WFP Center on Adriatico Street, Manila.

Nine-year-old Lorenzo Naval and 14-year-old April Lim sparked NWTC's campaign.

Naval, a member of the national junior team, ruled the 12-14 of Er Lu (second level) event while Lim topped the 18-over youth Changquan competition.

The other NWTC gold medals came from Henson See (male Changquan), Yvonne Yeung (female San Lu) and Vincent Naval (male San Lu), while Karen Sy provided the lone silver in female Er Lu.

More Than Medals' stars ranked second with two golds, three silvers and three bronzes, followed by UP (1 gold, 1 silver, 4 bronzes), Northern Rizal Yorklin High School (1 gold, 1 silver), WFP-Cebu (1 gold, 1 silver) and Ling Nam Athletic Federation (1 gold, 1 bronze).

WINNING FORM: Changquan gold medalist April Lim.

The winners of the meet organized by WFP development committee director Lester Pimentel and sponsored by WFP president Julian Camacho qualified for the national pool, which will soon undergo rigorous training in preparation for the Asian junior championships set in Singapore this July.

"I'm very happy with the results," said WFP honorary president Francis Chan, who noted the big number of talents who made it to the training pool.

Try and do it, Pacquiao . . .

From page A25

Just the same, Pacquiao said all he could promise is do his very best for his countrymen when asked on the air by Mike Enriquez of dzBB if he felt he could knock out Morales.

In trying his best, Pacquiao said he has completed over 60 rounds of sparring, sessions generally graded excellent by trainer Freddie Roach.

Pacquiao also bared he has started to streamline a new weapon, his right cross.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao said he has retained the services of his business manager, Rod Nazario, who was scheduled to meet with Shelly Finkel, with whom the sensational southpaw from General Santos City signed a two-year contract last month.

Pacquiao personally fetched Nazario, who enrolled him under Roach and charted him to stardom, at the Los Angeles airport the other day.

The Ring Magazine featherweight boxing champion took Nazario to the classy apartment a couple of blocks from the Wild Card Boxing Club on a second-hand $35,000-Lincoln Navigator.

Pacquiao's new place, which has two big bedrooms, is on a lot which used to be with Magic Johnson.

There are four pool tables in the building.

You know how to save Luisito and the Pasig?

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

BOTH used to be priceless national jewels.

But it's now easy to compare the dying Pasig, once the river of our dreams, to battered, battle-weary Luisito Espinosa, once our most celebrated world boxing champion.

There are ongoing efforts to revive, if not restore, them to their former glories.

For Luisito, who suffered another undeserved devastation in the United States over the weekend, he will never be a champ again.

But he could be helped back to his feet to live sanely once again, after being knocked out silly by cowardly promoters.

The Pasig, on the other hand, cannot be restored to its pristine past, but it could be saved from totally dying.

***

The river first.

There's this announcement that another major event is being staged to save the Pasig.

The event is the Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River.

It's not the first event of its nature to be held in support of the dying river.

Before it, there was the Pasig River Heritage Marathon and a host of such events which obviously did not serve their full purpose.

But this 42-km run, from Fort Santiago to Fort Bonifacio, promises to be truly different, explains a friend who's been helping drumbeat the race.

***

How could a running marathon save the Pasig?

The answer: "Since its inception, our marathon was never an ordinary brawn-and-sweat sporting activity. It has always been a hybrid of physical prowess, environmental advocacy and historical cultural awareness."

Great. How else could it differ from those failed marathons?

He adds: "In going international, the Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River has been accredited by both the US-based Association of International Marathoners and Road Racers (AIMS) and the International Association of Athletics. We therefore get the limelight of international road racers focused on us for one special time of the year. We now belong to a select list where renowned international marathon events and organizers are included."

The event, we were told, is being spearheaded by former First Lady Amelita Ramos, chairperson of the Clean and Green Foundation Inc.

No date has yet been set for said marathon.

But not to worry: "It was conceived by pure inspiration and organized out of pure love."

***

So who will stop Luisito Espinosa from going the way of the Pasig and eventually killing himself?

Definitely not his kids who are too young, ignorant of what their helpless father is up to.

Definitely not the blind boxing commission out there in California that could not care less if a helpless, defenseless, destitute former national treasure gets savaged by younger foes in begging for a few dollars inside the ring.

Luisito is not only over-the-hill. He's not only a washed-up bum.

He's lost, desperate, devastated. But the poor pug could not help it.

He keeps punching out there. Oh, he does not know anymore what he's doing.

But he'd rather get demolished, again and again and again, he'd rather die slowly, brutally rather than see his three lovely kids go hungry.

***

You know what?

There are people who could stop Luisito from surely and slowly annihilating himself.

For example, Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Rosario Cruz could get on her feet, do her job, and stop sitting on the Espinosa case, which has gathered dust in her sala these past six years.

The case stemmed from the non-payment of Luisito's $150,000 purse for his title defense in Koronadal, South Cotabato, during the reign of Fidel Ramos.

So far, the case itself has started to rot, no thanks to the assigned judge who has obviously forgotten what justice is all about.

Based on the merits of the case, the then head of the Games and Amusements Board committed an unforgivable sin when he allowed Espinosa to fight with the purses still unsettled.

But the full blame falls on former South Cotabato Gov. Larry de Pedro and Rod Nazario, the listed promoters in the Koronadal world championship.

These two should stop running away. They owe Espinosa.

In fact, Manny Pacquiao's promoter, Murad Muhammad, had openly advised Nazario to settle his debt to Espinosa the moment he's able to collect his cut from Pacquiao's monumental March 19 outing in Las Vegas.

That's the only decent thing to do, Murad was quoted as having advised his partner in Team Pacquiao.

Sorry, but they have obviously forgotten what decency is all about in the case of the defeated, cheated Luisito Espinosa.

The decayed Pasig of our dreams has a better chance of surviving.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Solid shot for Manila Southwoods this time

MURAKAMI: Top gun

By Musong R. Castillo

SOUTHWOODS knows that winning the senior title at the Philippine Airlines Interclub golf championships is like "asking for the moon."

The team has a better chance at shooting down the stars, though, in men's action.

"The lineups [in the men's division] seem pretty even," Southwoods' Jeric Hechanova said, a few minutes before flying to Bacolod together with the senior team yesterday.

"Winning the senior championship is like asking for the moon," Hechanova added. "We're looking at pulling off another surprise like last year [in the men's division], though we hope to go all the way this time."

A team built around the flamboyant Artemio Murakami and reigning Singapore Amateur champion Michael Bibat guns for a first title in six years.

Southwoods, which last won in 1999 when powerhouses Canlubang and Luisita were absent, looks ready to go all the way this time with its young stars now armed with man-size games.

And Hechanova feels the team has learned a bitter lesson from its final-round collapse last year in Cagayan de Oro that allowed longshot Del Monte to escape with the championship.

Seven down going into the final day, Southwoods went four-up with five holes to play only to lose steam and finish second.

"Our players are young but they're experienced," said Hechanova. "That's why I feel we have a good chance of winning, because a player plays only two days and it's easier to get two good days than four from one [player]."

Though Southwoods will be missing one regular in 19-year-old Toru Nakajima, the team is teeming with youthful talent with Gene Bondoc, Jun Jun Plana, Hanson So, Mico Yee, Laurence Negrido, Jong Laput and Tonlits Asistio on the roster.

Teams in the men's tournament may each field 10 players with each player seeing action for 36 holes. Only the top four scores from five players count toward the team aggregate per day.

Butch Brodett, Ben Borja, Sloreen de los Santos, Ken Onda, Pico Ching, Cres Bendijo, Sakae Hiroshima and rookie Freddie Mendoza make up the Southwoods senior squad.

SPORTSWATCH

Best of the Best darts tilt up

PRIZES worth P25,000 are up for grabs in the "Best of the Best" darts league starting this Thursday at the Amber's Best Restaurant on Emilia corner Palanan streets in Makati. Patterned after the defunct Metro Manila Inter-Club, the event will feature teams composed of at least two rated and two non-rated players and will be held every Thursday. A team can field a maximum of six players, with an entry fee of P1,000. Aside from cash prizes, trophies, medals and certificates will also be awarded to the top teams in the tourney supported by San Miguel Corp. and Terton Craft. The best individual player will win a mountain bike courtesy of Toby's Sports. For inquiries, call Amber's Best at 5518920 and 4587394.

Retanal tops Region I chess elims

WILLIAM Retanal stunned top seed Michael Teves of Ilocos Norte in the eighth and final round Sunday night to rule the Region I elimination of the national standard chess championship at the Laoag City Hall. The No. 6 seed Retanal, the pride of Mandaue City, finished with 7.0 points to pocket P7,000 and advance to the semifinal round of the tournament slated in Manila in May to select the members of the national team vying in the Southeast Asian Games on Nov. 27 to Dec. 5. Second seed Edmundo Gatus of Tondo, Manila, downed No. 5 John-John Mendoza of Benguet to finish second with 6.5 points, the same output of third seed Belsar Valencia of San Fernando City, La Union, and 11th seed Ronald Adaya of Baguio City. The trio received P3,333 each. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

STREETBALL CHALLENGE: The staging of the 10th adidas Streetball Challenge received a boost when adidas Philippines Inc. inked a deal with InterMed, the marketing and distributing arm of Cherifer PGM, the multivitamin which helps in providing essential height-building nutrients. The deal includes the sponsorship of the "Cherifer PGM Height Matters Shot Blocking Contest," the staging of the Cherifer Big Man's Camp as well as prizes for the winning teams of the regional, national and Asian finals. Adidas Philippines president and managing director John P. Alonte (center), marketing director Angelica P. Suiza (right), deputy chief financial officer Joel Orense (right, standing), and sports marketing manager Goody Custodio (left, standing) signed the deal with InterMed president Bob Segovia and product manager Tom Meneses, Big Man's Camp instructor Jeff Flowers and Carat Philippines CEO Jocelyn Domingo.

Wide-open race in GCAP derby tonight

ANOTHER banner crowd is expected tonight at the Las Piñas Coliseum when the championship round of the Gentleman Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 7-Cock Derby gets under way at 7 p.m. with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. A wide-open race for the title among 27 qualifiers is expected since only three entries—JU WG SA Listana of William Go, NML SP of Tony Lasala and Complexor 3000 of Patrick Antonio—posted three points in last Monday's elimination round. Meanwhile, the much-awaited special 3-cock derby this Saturday has drawn more than 50 entries and the sponsorship of Pagcor-Casino Filipino Parañaque. Coliseum manager Alex Tobias and Cito Manansala said each participant will get P2,000 first bet certificate from CF-Parañaque. For inquiries, call 8731040 and 8743910.

UAAP BADMINTON

Tigers, Lady Archers rule

SANTO Tomas took the sting out of Far Eastern to put away the men's title while La Salle completed its masterful domination in women's play as the UAAP Season 67 badminton tournament came to a close Sunday.

The Tigers nipped FEU to pull off a 6-0 sweep of the men's tournament and their first UAAP crown.

In the final women's match of the event played at the Rizal Badminton Hall, top La Salle bet and RP No. 2 Paula Obañana overcame a sprained ankle to stop Ateneo's Irene Chiu, 11-8, 11-9, and power the Taft Avenue-based squad to a similar sweep.

The battle between last year's finalists ended 4-0 in La Salle's favor.

UST (5-1) finished second, a rung ahead of the defending champion, Ateneo (4-2).

Veteran Tiger Reynaldo Selga set the tone for coach Noli Cajefe's charges by downing Mark Alvin Natividad in singles, 15-3, 17-16.

Ricky Bartolome made it 2-0 for UST by routing national teammate Christopher Flores, 15-4, 15-7.

Wilson Frias and Natividad put FEU in the win column with a 15-13, 15-5 win over Alfredo Mailon and Arden Pantig in the first doubles before Bartolome and Selga sealed the title for UST with a 15-4, 15-6 defeat of Flores and Wilmer Frias.

La Salle (4-2) wound up third.

Michelle Guerrero posted the Lady Archers' second win with a handy 11-4, 11-3 victory over Ateneo's Andrea Go, 11-4, 11-3, before sisters Therine and Paula Chan survived Chiu and Aurora Co, 17-14, 15-10, 15-6, in the first doubles.

Obañana and Guerrero wrapped it all up for La Salle by beating Adelyn Po and Macy Sy, 15-6, 15-5, in the second doubles.

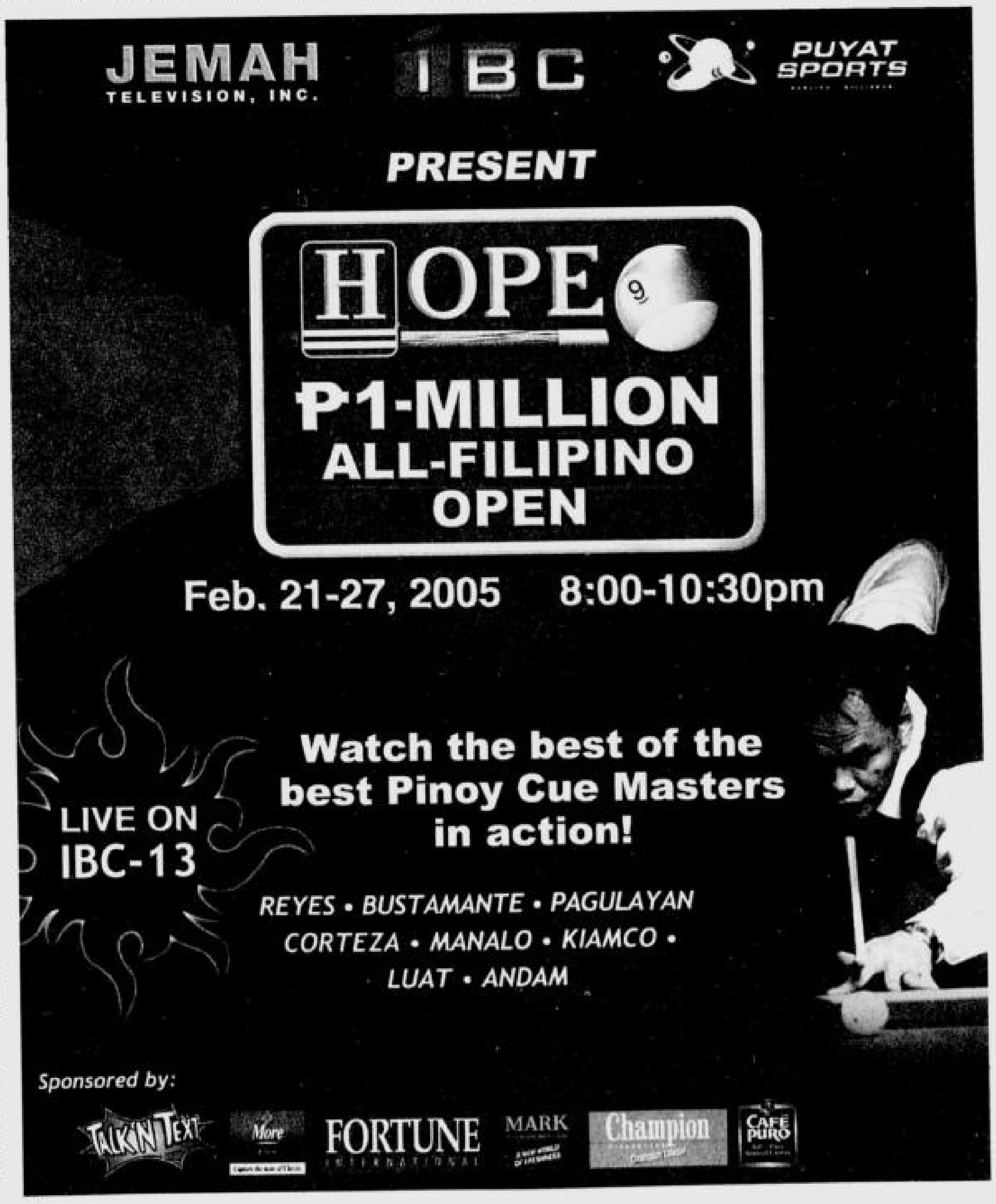
Bartolome and Obañana were named Most Valuable Players.

THE TIGERS show off the trophy they received from UAAP Season 67 president Danny Jose (right).

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Story Teller 2. No Compromise 3. Voice of Destiny 4. Better Beth
Race 2—1. Full of Fury 2. Sa Wakas 3. Bold Water
Race 3—1. Music Quest 2. Solid North 3. Astimegoesby 4. Princess Sarah 5. Sky King 6. Caballero
Race 4—1. Batangas Force 2. Albatross 3. Striker 4. Mrs. Big
Race 5—1. Audrey's Temper 2. I Don't Dance 3. Snow Princess 4. Vice Free 5. Iron Mic 6. Sea of Galilee
Race 6—1. Refreshing 2. Sweet Alyssa 4. Fille D'Honneur
Race 7—1 Sound of the Wind 2. Guest House 3. Awesome Power 4. Bold Lucky
Race 8—1. La Española 2. Tiger Winnie 3. Dulce My Love 4. West Swinger 5. Mucho Macho 6. Mandalay Bay



JEMAH TELEVISION, INC. IBC PUYAT SPORTS PRESENT

HOPE P1-MILLION ALL-FILIPINO OPEN

Feb. 21-27, 2005 8:00-10:30pm

LIVE ON IBC-13

Watch the best of the best Pinoy Cue Masters in action!

REYES • BUSTAMANTE • PAGULAYAN CORTEZA • MANALO • KIAMCO • LUAT • ANDAM

Sponsored by: TALK'N TEXT More FORTUNE INTERNATIONAL MARK Champion CAFÉ PURO

Santa Ana posts record sales

PHILIPPINE Racing Club Inc., operator of the Santa Ana Park, recently set a new industry record for the highest gross sales in a week after posting P190.13 million in betting sales for its Feb. 15 to 20 racing schedule.

The new sales record eclipsed the previous high of P189.6 million set during last year's final racing week at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

PRCI's previous record was P188.83 million generated during its last racing week for 2004.

For its recent Sunday (Feb. 20) program alone, PRCI generated total wager sales of P44.31 million, the highest for a single race day this year.

Highlight of PRCI's six-day racing schedule last week was the running of the 2005 Philracom Open Stakes Race won in impressive fashion by 2004 Horse of the Year Empire King.

Reunited with regular rider Jeffrey Ladiana, the champion galloper won over equally famed rival West Bound.

The celebrated 4-year-old chestnut colt by Perfect Halo out of Carta Nueve covered the 1,800-meter race in 1:54, a second off the track record set last year by Material Maker.

HOPE P1-MILLION ALL-FILIPINO OPEN

SCOREBOARD

Yesterday's Results

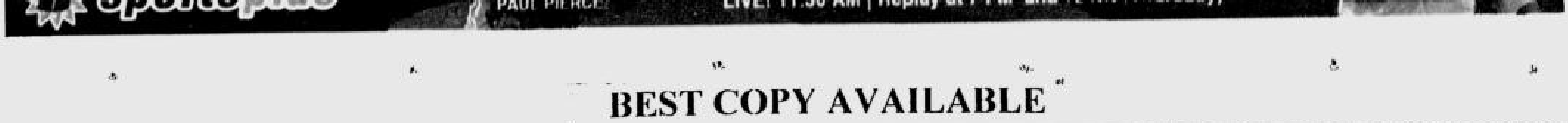
Won	Lost
F. Bustamante	J. Luna
A. Gabica	E. Reyes
W. Kiamco	C. Viado
E. Acaba	L. Saberdo
R. Dy	L. Andam
J. Alba	M. Manalo

Watch the action LIVE on IBC-13
Feb. 21-27, 2005
8:00-10:30 pm
JEMAH

Today's Games

	E. Reyes	vs.	E. Acaba
	W. Kiamco	vs.	R. Luat
	R. Dy	vs.	J. De Luna
	J. Alba	vs.	Pagulayan/Valle
To be played Feb. 24	A. Gabica	vs.	L. Corteza
To be played Feb. 24	F. Bustamante	vs.	Pagulayan/Valle

HOPE P1-MILLION ALL-FILIPINO OPEN



NBA ON sportsplus

LIVE! 11:30 AM | Replay at 7 PM and 12 NN (Thursday)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Scott clinches rain-shortened Nissan Open

LOS ANGELES—Australia's Adam Scott rolled home a three-footer on the first playoff hole to defeat Chad Campbell Monday at the PGA Tour's rain-shortened Los Angeles event.

At 24, Scott has already claimed three victories on the US tour, but Monday's win won't add to that cache. Because inclement weather forced organizers to shorten the event to 36 holes, it won't count as an official victory, although Scott did earn the full first prize of $864,000.

"I don't feel like I played much golf this week," Scott said. "I don't feel tired and drained like you normally do when you've been battling." Officials had hoped to complete a third round on Monday, but more heavy rain overnight left parts of the Riviera Country Club course unplayable.

They reverted to the 36-hole scores, which saw Scott and Campbell tied at nine-under 133.

In the sudden-death playoff at 18, both players had three-foot putts for par, but Campbell's lipped out and Scott's fell.

"The putt was outside left, and I just hit it a little bit firm," said Campbell, who had finished his second round on Friday and hadn't hit a ball since until warming up for the playoff.

Scott didn't join him atop the leaderboard until Sunday. He was among those who couldn't finish the second round on Friday, all of whom were left hanging when play was washed out completely on Saturday.

The last time a PGA event went only 36 holes was the 1996 Buick Challenge, which was won by Michael Bradley in a five-way playoff.

The decision on Monday morning not to try for a full third round ended the hopes of Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke and England's Brian Davis, who shared third on 134 after two rounds.

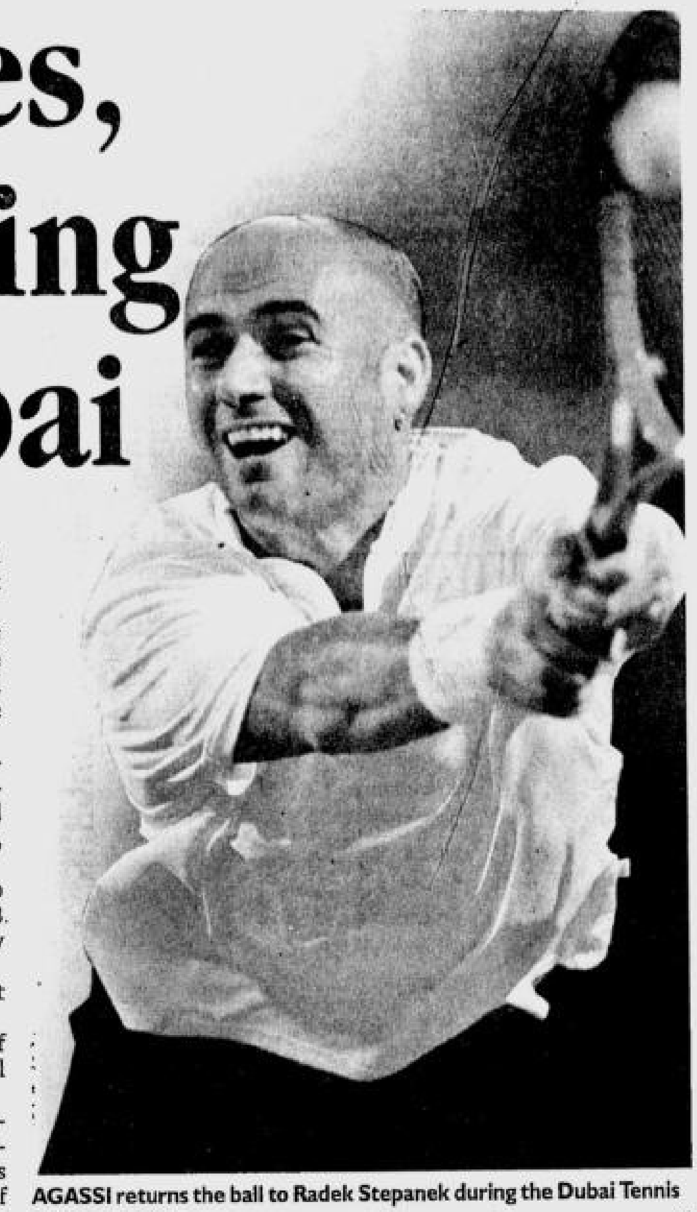
Scotland's Colin Montgomerie finished a further stroke back on 135, alongside American JL Lewis.

Despite the difficulties of the week, Montgomerie had the satisfaction of posting his best round score ever on US soil—a second-round 64. But Montgomerie didn't make as much headway as he might have hoped in improving his world ranking, since only 75 percent of the normal world ranking points are awarded for a 36-hole event.

The rain also helped derail Tiger Woods' bid to regain the world number one ranking from Vijay Singh. Woods started the week with a chance to recapture the top spot, but finished tied for 13th. *AFP*

ADAM Scott hoists the winner's trophy. AP

Agassi advances, receives standing ovation in Dubai


AGASSI returns the ball to Radek Stepanek during the Dubai Tennis Championship. AP

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Andre Agassi dispatched Radek Stepanek, 6-4, 7-5, on Monday in his first appearance at the $975,000 (euro746,840) Dubai Men's Open, earning a standing ovation from the largest crowd to see a tennis event in the United Arab Emirates.

The No. 4 seed in the 32-man field, Agassi delighted the capacity crowd in the 5,000-seat Dubai Tennis Stadium, prevailing in two hours and apologizing for not coming sooner in the tournament's 12-year history.

"I have had a few great days here in Dubai," the eight-time Grand Slam winner said. "I have waited a long time to be here, and I must apologize for being so late."

In the only other match involving a seeded player on Monday, No. 5 Tommy Robredo of Spain needed a pair of tiebreaks before finally subduing Olivier Rochus of Belgium, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6).

Robredo was one of three Spaniards to win on Monday.

Agassi was in control for nearly the entire match despite 12 aces by Stepanek and some great shots around the court.

After breaking Agassi in the seventh game of the second set to go ahead, the Czech gave away the advantage with three double faults.

"He is an awkward player," Agassi said. "He knows the court so well and you just don't know what he will do next."

Unlike Agassi, Robredo struggled in spots during his match. He jumped ahead 5-0 in the first set before being forced to a tiebreak and took two hours and 13 minutes to complete the victory.

Robredo compatriot Juan Carlos Ferrero also won, beating Germany's Florian Mayer, 6-3, 6-4, while Fernando Verdasco defeated qualifier Vladimir Voltchkov of Belarus, 6-2, 6-2.

Ferrero, the 2001 Dubai Open champion who has not won an ATP title since Madrid in 2003 and lost four of his seven matches this year, likely will face top-seed Roger Federer next.

Federer plays his opening match against qualifier Ivo Minar on Tuesday.

Robredo next meets Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic, who defeated Slovak Karol Beck, 6-4, 7-6 (4).

In other matches, Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia crushed Omar Bahrouzyan of the United Arab Emirates, 6-0, 6-4, while Germany's Rainer Schuettler beat Younes Al Aynaoui of Morocco, 6-0, 6-1. *AP*

RACE FOR A CAUSE

Pasig River marathon set Sunday

By Musong R. Castillo

CLOSE to a million pesos in prize money is up for grabs when the Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River is flagged off this Sunday.

Veteran Roy Vence heads the big local challenge in the chase for the top purse of P100,000 in the centerpiece men's 42-kilometer race that starts from historic Intramuros in Manila and ends at the ultra-modern Fort Bonifacio in Taguig.

So far, 10 foreigners and scores of expartriates have registered for the 42-K race that offers P50,000 to the second placer and P30,000 for the third placer.

Though the 42-K field lacked the biggest names in the sport with the national athletes failing to secure permission to take a break from their training programs, the race remains to be money-rich, with the female champion winning P75,000.

The event was formally launched yesterday at the Mandarin in Makati where organizers signed a memorandum of understanding making electronics giant Samsung as the main presenter.

Former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos, Games and Amusements Board chair Eric Buhain, former PSC commissioner Tisha Abundo and Samsung CEO Hyuck Jae Shim graced the affair.

The race is being held to raise funds for the Clean and Green Foundation chaired by Ramos whose main project is cleaning up the Pasig River.

SAMSUNG
Philipp Marathon
PAS
FORMER First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos receives documents on Samsung's sponsorship from company CEO Hyuck Jae Shim as GAB chair Eric Buhain (right) looks on. RUDY ESPERAS

Sorenstam files for divorce

SORENSTAM

ANNIKA Sorenstam, the No. 1 player in women's golf and one of the most famous female athletes in the world, has filed for divorce from David Esch, her husband of eight years.

"I want to confirm that I have filed for divorce," Sorenstam said in a statement released to The Associated Press on Tuesday. "We are working toward an amicable resolution and we appreciate the media's respect for our privacy. I wish David nothing but the best for the future."

Golfweek magazine reported the divorce was filed Feb. 4 in Circuit Court of Orange County, not far from where Sorenstam and Esch live in the gated community of Lake Nona. The suit has been sealed, and no other details were available.

Sorenstam had hinted at early retirement in recent years, saying she might want to start a family.

But rumors that the marriage was rocky began last year when Esch, highly visible throughout Sorenstam's career, stopped traveling as frequently. Esch began to work in real estate near their summer home in Incline Village, Nev. They have been separated the last two months.

He was last seen at the Samsung World Championship in Palm Desert, Calif., in October, when Sorenstam shot 67 in the final round to win.

But he was not at the season-ending ADT Championship, when Sorenstam was presented with her seventh LPGA player of the year award. *AP*

Philippoussis out of Australia Davis Cup team

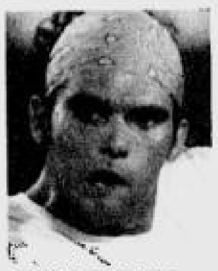
SYDNEY, Australia—Two-time winner Mark Philippoussis has been left off Australia's team for next month's Davis Cup match against Austria, with selectors opting for journeyman tennis player and golfer Scott Draper in his place.

Draper, who recently earned his card to play on the Australasian professional golf tour, said he'd have no problem returning his focus to tennis for the March 4-6 Davis Cup match in Sydney.

He could play in the second singles spot behind No. 2-ranked Lleyton Hewitt, who has been runner-up at the last two Grand Slam events.

Doubles specialist Todd Woodbridge and Wayne Arthurs were also named Tuesday to Australia's four-man team.

Philippoussis had a season plagued by injuries in 2004, when his ranking slid from No. 9 in the world to No. 106. He missed the Australian Open last month after pulling out of the Hopman Cup international mixed teams event with a groin strain.


PHILIPPOUSSIS

Philippoussis was expected to return to competition this week.

Philippoussis "wants to be part of the Davis Cup but form and fitness are a concern and he just needs tennis," said Australia's coach Wally Masur. "We will welcome him back with open arms but at the moment it's a case of him working on his fitness and improving his ranking."

Masur said he had no concerns about Draper's fitness, despite the 30-year-old Draper playing mostly golf since winning the mixed doubles title at the Australian Open tennis tournament last month.

"He's the right man for the job," said Masur.

Draper's previous Davis Cup appearances were a loss against Argentina and a win over India in 2003.

Draper missed the cut at his two most recent golf tournaments, the New Zealand Open and the Jacobs Creek Open and will skip two tournaments on Australia's secondary golf tour to prepare for the Davis Cup. *AP*

P. Princesa hosting FIM moto anew

PUERTO Princesa plays host to the 2005 FIM International Motocross Championship for the second straight year on March 20 at the race track near the City Hall.

FIM-UAM president Macky Carapiet, guesting in yesterday's weekly PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn Manila Pavilion, said Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn is supervising the preparations to ensure the success of the "Motocross Masters of Asia" event.

"Hagedorn believes the event will be a big boost to the country's tourism industry as it will not only gather the champion riders from 11 participating Asia-Pacific nations but will showcase the country, particularly Puerto Princesa on 490 million households globally through ESPN and Star TV," said Carapiet in the forum sponsored by Red Bull, AgfaColor, McDonald's and Standard Insurance.

ESPN and Star TV will likewise feature the beauty and sight of Puerto Princesa City like the Crocodile Farm, Honda Bay, Underground River, the St. Paul Subterranean river, the wildlife reserve and its beautiful islands like the Pon Teh Bay.

In fact, the City of Puerto Princesa won the special award as the "Motocross organizer of the Year for Asia" last year, for meeting international safety standards and regulations of the Asian Motorcycle Union and the Federation International du Motocycliste (FIM).

St. Stephen reigns

DEFENDING champion St. Stephen High School routed Xavier High School, 74-59, to rule the 29th Hitachi-Metro Manila Tiong Lian Basketball League crown recently at the Chiang Kai Shek Gym.

It was St. Stephen's eighth crown in the league sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Hitachi and supported by And1, Hang Ten, Healthy Options and Davies Paints.

Kish Co and Lawrence Wu delivered sterling performances as St. Stephen surged ahead, 48-34, after three quarters and never let up.

ST. Stephen High team, led by coach Goldwyn Monteverde (right), Kish Co (4) and Lawrence Wu (5), with their championship trophy

All-Digital Cinemas
MARKET! MARKET!
Cinemas! Cinemas!
The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.
Movie tickets for sale at the Ground Floor Fiesta Market and Customer Service Booth

Free Seating Cinemas: P70.00
① Let the Love Begin
② Dreamboy
③ Infection
④ Son of the Mask
Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00
⑤ Lemony Snickets
⑥ Constantine
⑦ The Aviator
Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7516

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

US top grossers this week

THIS weekend, "Hitch" fended off Keanu Reeves' "Constantine" to retain the top box-office spot. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc:

1) "Hitch," $31.8M
2) "Constantine," $30.5M
3) "Because of Winn-Dixie," $10.85M
4) "Son of the Mask," $7.7M
5) "Million Dollar Baby," $7.2M
6) "Are We There Yet?", $6.5M
7) "Boogeyman," $5.5M
8) "Pooh's Heffalump Movie," $4.4M
9) "The Aviator," $4.2M
10) "Sideways," $3.9M

Will Smith . . .

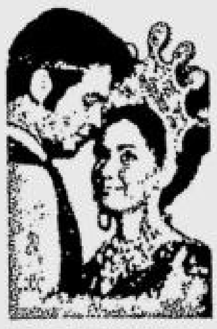
From page A30

tramuros Administration and Dramatis Personae present Copi's politically changed satire "Eva Peron" with an invitational gala premiere at 8 p.m. on March 2 at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza Tower, Makati City. **Lito Casaje** directs.

The play will also be performed in Filipino on March 15 at the Raha Sulayman Theater in Fort Santiago. Call 895-7441 or 722-4205.

On Cartoon Network

AT 6 P.M. on Feb. 23, Cartoon Network telecasts "He-Man & the Masters of the Universe." In today's episode, Skeletor forms the Council of Evil and begins to capture the Masters one by one. He-Man and the remaining Masters attempt to rescue their captured friends, but they too fall into Skeletor's trap.



FPJ and Susan Roces in 'Perlas ng Silangan'

Pelikula at . . .

From page A31

from among the country's best animation shorts, among them Daniel Greeves' "Flatworld," Phil Mulloy's "Intolerance" and Ruth Lingford's "Pleasures of War."

"Pelikula at Lipunan" runs until Feb. 27.

Karina LOMBARD
MariaConchita ALONSO
Damian CHAPA
FOOTSTEPS

Exclusive SCREENING
Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA
February 23

SYNOPSIS:
JASON DAVIS, an adrenaline-junkie TV news reporter, falls for beautiful AMBER CARLEN. He receives a tip that a double murder is about to be commited. Estranged from his wife NANCY and eight tear-old daughter MAKIE, Jason need to re-prioritize his life. The murder victims turn out to be Juvenile Court Judge Stone and his wife, Deputy D.A. STEVE CARLEN is assigned to the case.
Jason connects Steven and Amber, and he publicly accuses Steve of harrasing him. The latter blames it all on Amber. Jason finds no information on her, but he finds a matching Amber Cardinelli, who had attempted to murder her brother. Jason breaks into her apartment where he finds evidence that Deputy D.A. Steve Carlen is the perpetrator. He races at Steve's in time to see Amber being sexually assaulted by her brother. The police and media arrive, it's a hot story, but Jason is on his way to be with his family.

Subject for MTRCB Rating

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 833 2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) SON OF THE MASK
2 (DOLBY) LEMONY SNICKET'S
3 (DOLBY) PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG13
4 (DOLBY) CONSTANTINE PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY)

Cinema 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 CONSTANTINE
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 CONSTANTINE
3 NIGHT JOB

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CONSTANTINE
5 NIGHT JOB

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 INFECTION
2 NIGHT JOB
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 DREAMBOY
5 (DOLBY) CONSTANTINE
6 SON OF THE MASK

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) KUNG FU SHUSTLE
2 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) LEMONY SNICKETS
2 (SDDS) SHALL WE DANCE
3 (DTS) CONSTANTINE
4 GOLD (DTS) CONSTANTINE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE AVIATOR
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE AVIATOR
7 GOLD (DOLBY) MASK - 2 SON OF THE MASK
8 (SRD) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
9 (SRD) DREAMBOY
10 (SRD) INFECTION

Araneta Center
CINEMA GUIDE
For Inquiries Pls. Call TICKETNET 911-5555
GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
Level 4, Gateway Mall
The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines!
ALL THEATERS IN DOLBY EX ULTRA SOUND
FULL STADIUM SEATING AND EXCLUSIVE VISTA COMPUTER TICKET SYSTEM
GUARANTEED SEATS, NO STANDING ROOM
THE AVIATOR
SON OF THE MASK
LEMONY SNICKET'S
INFECTION
LET THE LOVE BEGIN
CONSTANTINE
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
SHALL WE DANCE
ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 LEMONY SNICKET'S
2 CONSTANTINE
3 THE AVIATOR
4 SON OF THE MASK
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 NIGHT JOB
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 MASK - 2 SON OF THE MASK

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY SR) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 (DTS ES) CONSTANTINE
4 RAISE YOUR VOICE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 RAISE YOUR VOICE
3 (DOLBY) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
4 (DTS) CONSTANTINE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 (DOLBY) MEET THE FOCKERS
4 (DTS) ELEKTRA

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 MEET THE FOCKERS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) LEMONY SNICKET'S
2 (DOLBY) CONSTANTINE
3 (DOLBY) THE AVIATOR
4 (DOLBY) MASK - 2 SON OF THE MASK

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 RAISING STRIPE
2 (DTS) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 (DOLBY) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
4 CONSTANTINE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 (DOLBY) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 (DTS) CONSTANTINE
4 RAISING STRIPE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 (DOLBY) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 (DOLBY) NED KELLY
4 (DTS) FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327
1 CONSTANTINE
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 (DOLBY) LET THE LOVE BEGIN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) NIGHT JOB
2
3
4 (DTS)

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 (DTS) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 CONSTANTINE
5 RAISING STRIPE

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 DREAMBOY
2 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
3 (DTS) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 (DOLBY) FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 CONSTANTINE
3 SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION
4 RAISING STRIPE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 NIGHT JOB
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

the national commission for culture & the arts-cinema values reorientation program
in cooperation with mowelfund film institute present
PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2005
Feb 23 - 27 sm megamall cinema 6

Feb 23 wed / 5pm OPENING NIGHT
TRIBUTE TO DA KING FERNANDO POE, JR.
Special screening of
AGUILA
directed by Eddie Romero/1980/210 mins.
1980 Urian Best Supporting Actress (Daria Ramirez)
1980 FAMAS Best Picture, Director, Screenplay (Eddie Romero), Cinematography (Mike del Leon/Rody Lacap)

10am - 12:30pm MAGNIFICO by Maryo J. delos Reyes
12:30pm - 3pm BRITISH ANIMATION 1 (for children)

FREE ADMISSION FOR AGUILA

FOR INFORMATION PLS CALL MFI 410 4567 / 410 4545

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
MANILA'S MOST TALKED-ABOUT MOVIE
A FILM YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE AGAIN AND AGAIN
3 ACADEMY AWARDS NOMINATIONS
ART DIRECTION • CINEMATOGRAPHY • ORIGINAL SONG
3 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE • BEST ACTRESS • BEST ORIGINAL SONG

2ND WEEK
The PHANTOM of the OPERA

Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic tale of terror, mystery and romance, seen by over 8 million people worldwide, comes to the big screen for the first time.

Araneta Center
Entertainment Guide

CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway CINEPLEX*10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines
ONLY P99 ADMISSION • P120 RESERVED SEATS

THE AVIATOR	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
SON OF THE MASK	CONSTANTINE
LEMONY SNICKET'S	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
INFECTION	SHALL WE DANCE

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ LEMONY SNICKET'S	❹ SON OF THE MASK
❷ CONSTANTINE	❺ LET THE LOVE BEGIN
❸ THE AVIATOR	

ALL FEATURES AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE FOR VERIFICATION PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

CENTER EVENTS

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10	*Free Movie Pass for every P400 purchase at Taco Bell promo runs up to March 24, 2005*
ARANETA COLISEUM	*Fire Dance Spectacular February 24 to 27* *Jars of Clay: Show You Love March 2*
GATEWAY MALL	*performance by Mishka Adams at The Gazebo February 25*
COLISEUM CIRCLE	*Cool Jazz, Cool Classics every Fridays & Saturdays*
SHOPWISE STRIP	*Acoustic Performances at Gloria Jeans February 23 & 26*

NOW OPEN
Le Coeur De France *Upper Ground Floor, All Mall*
Rustan's Dept. Store *Upper Ground Floor, Level 2 & 3, Gateway Mall*
Italianni's, Cafe Havana, Cafe Adriatico *Ground Floor* / Cibo *Level 2, Gateway Mall*
Superbowl Of China & Food Express *Level 3, Gateway Mall*

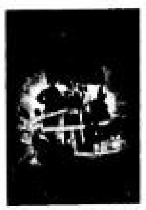
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

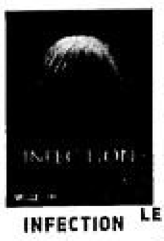
SM CINEMA movietime™

JIM CARREY
A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
WE'RE VERY CONCERNED.
4 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS
DREAMWORKS PICTURES

OPENS THIS WEEK

smcinema EXCLUSIVE


SON OF MASK


INFECTION

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENT

AVIATOR

LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
MTRCB Rating: PG13

NOW SHOWING

THE PODIUM CINEMA
For Seat Reservation, call 633 6976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

1 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
11:05 FS/11:35 MF/1:50 /4:05/6:20/8:35
10:25 LFS / 10:50 LMF / 12:40 END

2 THE AVIATOR
12:10 FS/ 12:45 MF / 4:10 / 7:35
10:25 LFS / 11:00 LMF / 11:50 END

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 THE AVIATOR
5 INFECTION
6 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
7 ELEKTRA
8 DREAMBOY
9 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
10 CONSTANTINE
11 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
12 MEET THE FOCKERS

sm city fairview
1 DREAMBOY
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 ELEKTRA
4 CONSTANTINE
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
6 THE AVIATOR
7 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
8 SON OF THE MASK
9 INFECTION
10 MEET THE FOCKERS
11 SHALL WE DANCE
12 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

sm city north edsa
1 DREAMBOY
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 INFECTION
5 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE smcinemaexclusive
6 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
7 CONSTANTINE
8 THE AVIATOR

sm city manila
1 SON OF THE MASK
2 CONSTANTINE
3 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
4 THE AVIATOR
5 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
6 CONSTANTINE
7 INFECTION
8 SHALL WE DANCE
9 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
10 MEET THE FOCKERS
11 DREAMBOY
12 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

sm city sta. mesa
1 SON OF THE MASK
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 THE AVIATOR
4 DREAMBOY
5 CONSTANTINE
6 SHALL WE DANCE
7 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
8 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
9 INFECTION
10 ELEKTRA

sm city southmall
1
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 CONSTANTINE
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 ELEKTRA
6 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 THE AVIATOR
9 DREAMBOY
10 INFECTION

sm city bicutan
1 THE AVIATOR
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 CONSTANTINE

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 CONSTANTINE
3 THE AVIATOR
4 SON OF THE MASK

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 CONSTANTINE
2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
3 DREAMBOY
4 RAISE YOUR VOICE
5 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
6 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

sm city baguio
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
2 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
4 CONSTANTINE

sm city batangas
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
2 RAISE YOUR VOICE
3 CONSTANTINE
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

sm city dasmariñas
1 CONSTANTINE
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 INFECTION
4 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

sm city marilao
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
3 RACING STRIPES
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

sm city bacoor
1 DREAMBOY
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 THE AVIATOR
4 INFECTION
5 CONSTANTINE
6 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
7 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
8 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

sm city lucena
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 MADHOUSE
4 DREAMBOY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 CONSTANTINE
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 SHALL WE DANCE
5 DREAMBOY
6 MEET THE FOCKERS
7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 CONSTANTINE

sm city iloilo
1 WITHOUT A PADDLE
2 RESERVED
3 A VERY LONG ENGAGMENT
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 CONSTANTINE
6 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
7 RESERVED
8 MEET THE FOCKERS

sm city davao
1 CONSTANTINE
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 RACING STRIPES
5 DREAMBOY
6 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

sm city cagayan de oro
1 CONSTANTINE
2 ALFIE
3 RACING STRIPES
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

CALL!
DIAL 833-9999 FOR INFORMATION AND MOVIE LISTINGS, MTRCB RATINGS AND SCREENING SCHEDULES.

SURF!
VISIT US AT www.smcinema.com FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA.

smcinemaexclusive

Dare it or not.

love me
if you Dare...

Catch the #1
Smash Hit from
France exclusively
at SM Cinema

WICKEDLY DELICIOUS!
AN UNBRIDLED MAD LOVE MASTERPIECE
Love me if you dare....
Are you game?

Will Smith does what comes naturally

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WILL SMITH

EVER since he began acting in films, Will **Smith** has made a name for himself as an action-adventure star. With his current starrer, "Hitch," Smith opts for a change of pace by giving the romantic comedy film format a go.

Going against an established screen persona is always a risk for any star, but Smith's gamble has paid off—in heaps: "Hitch" has set a new record for the biggest opening by a romantic comedy, leading its first weekend race (Feb. 11-13) with a resounding $45.3-million take at the US box office. The previous record was the $39.9-million take racked up last year by "50 First Dates," starring **Adam Sandler** and **Drew Barrymore.**

Everybody in Hollywood is very impressed with Smith's "surprising" achievement—except Smith himself. He wonders: "What's so surprising about all this? That's how I became successful in the first place!"

He's referring to how he got his start in television, playing the title character in the stylish sitcom, "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air." In that show, he turned in a cheeky and enormously appealing performance that made his "graduation" to the movies only a matter of time.

In addition, Smith became a popular rapper and stand-up comic, before action-adventure films claimed him. But his ability to make viewers smile and laugh has never left him, and it now triumphantly comes to the fore in "Hitch."

In his biggest hit to date, Smith plays a professional matchmaker whose successful career is threatened by a woman (**Eva Mendes**) who is bent on exposing his secrets—until they find themselves falling for each other.

Was it easy for Smith to play a "date doctor?" "You bet," he grins. "That's exactly what I do with my friends in real life: I match them up with each other, and regularly follow up on their relationships, to make sure that as many of the romances as possible end up at the altar!"

Smith further shares that the success of "Hitch" has brightened his career prospects in a special way, because it's his fifth consecutive $100M-plus blockbuster.

His latest hit follows up on the success of his two starrers last year, "I, Robot" and "Shark Tale," which grossed $144 million and $160 million, respectively. Many Hollywood A-listers like **Tom Hanks**, **Jim Carrey**, **Julia Roberts** and **Brad Pitt** haven't been as consistent as hit-makers.

So popular was "Hitch" when it opened earlier this month that its closest competitor, "Boogeyman," made only $10.8 million, or less than one-fourth of what Smith's starrer grossed at the box office. That's box office supremacy in any language, and Hollywood is properly impressed.

Even better, Smith's success in a romantic comedy has effectively expanded his market, from his usual action-adventure crowd, to many more niche markets defined by race, gender, age and class.

Studio research showed that 55 percent of the movie's audience was female, while those under and over age 25 were equally split. And ticket buyers had a good time, as a very high 92 percent rated the film as Excellent or Very Good!

Documentary on global warming

THE EARTH is getting warmer, and the effects are being felt around the world. Who is responsible? "CNN Presents" offers some answers with the one-hour documentary, "A Rising Tide: The Threat of Global Warming," at 11 p.m. on March 23.

CNN's space correspondent **Miles O'Brien** first visits Alaska, where temperatures are rising 10 times faster than in the rest of the world. The program also explores the consequences of global warming in the South Pacific, where some people are in danger of losing their homes to rising ocean waters.

'Eva Peron'

THE ALLIANCE Francaise de Manille, the In-

WILL SMITH/ A29

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	SON OF THE MASK	GP
CINEMA 2	AVIATOR	PG13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

① SON OF THE MASK
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

② LEMONY SNICKET'S A Series of Unfortunate Events
MTRCB (GP)

③ PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
MTRCB (PG - 13)

④ CONSTANTINE
MTRCB (PG - 13)

PREMIERE THEATRE

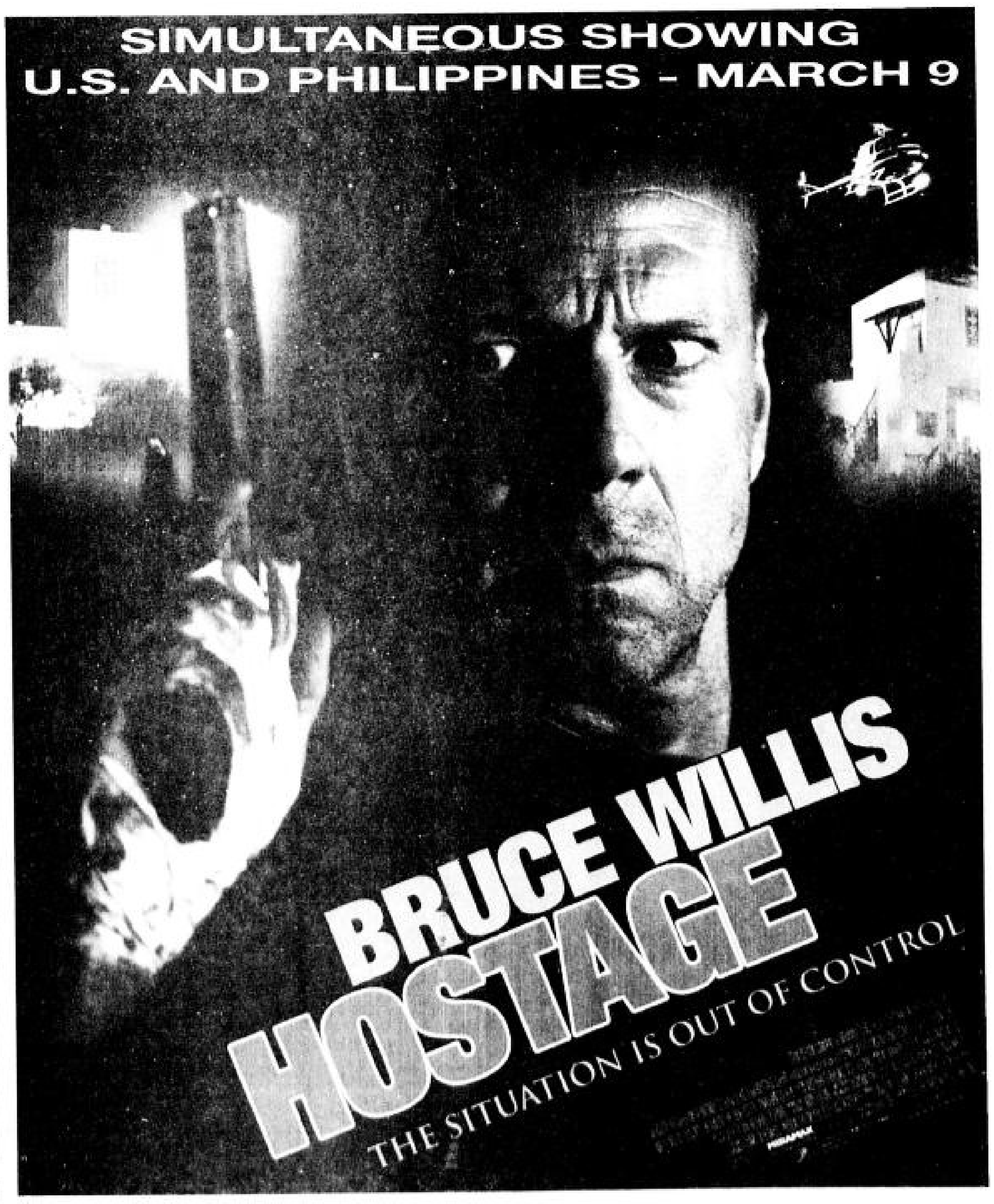
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special Treats
Enjoy a 20% discount on Matinee Show tickets at the Cineplex, except on selected blockbuster movies.
From Monday to Friday: all Matinee Shows' screenings are scheduled before 4pm. For more details, please see the film listing at the Shang Cineplex ticket booths or call 633-2227 or 633-7851 local 171.

*Enjoy Sweet Cinema Treats at the Shang Cinebar
FREE Nestle Kitkat for every P150.00 in accumulated receipts, same day purchase of food and any Nestle drinks at the Shang Cinebar
FREE Nestle Kitkat for Premiere Theatre patrons (1 per patron).
Promo runs from February 7-28, 2005.
*Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-072 Series of 2005

Regular Ticket Price
Premiere Theatre – P260
(includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Cinemas 1 to 4 – P150

Shangri-La Plaza


SIMULTANEOUS SHOWING
U.S. AND PHILIPPINES - MARCH 9
BRUCE WILLIS
HOSTAGE
THE SITUATION IS OUT OF CONTROL

"EC2LUV"

Pelikula at . . .

From page A32

the Mowelfund Film Institute and British Film Council, presents an assortment of do-it-yourself movies for the annual festival's 12th edition.

In Mes de Guzman's "Diliman," former political fireband Abe turns to romance pulp and ponders artistic dissatisfaction and malaise.

A group of campus brats in Manila gets involved with prostitution in the cyber world of Jowee Morel's "ec2luv."

Red returns

Experimental buff Roque "Roxlee" Lee stalks brother Romeo in art galleries and concert gigs to let people know why "Romeo Must Rock."

Raymond Red returns with two new shorts: "Salvaged Commercialism," a whimsical medley of snippets from TV commercials, and "Melancholy," which demonstrates Red's cinematographic sense of magic with his Nokia camera cell phone.

Eric dela Cruz explores what can and cannot transpire on a night in the life of security guard, with the film, "Sekyu."

Paolo Villaluna and Ellen Ramos sympathize with an athlete under pressure in "Godspeed."

Tribute to FPJ

With "Cinema and Memory" as theme this year, "Pelikula at Lipunan" honors the late action king, Fernando Poe Jr.

A film retrospective of FPJ movies is being held today.

The late actor will again be seen portraying the Filipino Everyman in "Aguila." He teams up with his wife Susan Roces in the epic, "Perlas ng Silangan."

Other FPJ films to be screened are "Kalibre .45," "Asedillo" and "Ang Panday." A 10-minute documentary will accompany every screening.

Lobby exhibits will chronicle Poe's 40-year movie career.

Child-friendly

The festival also introduces "Child-Friendly Cinema," featuring Maryo J. de los Reyes' multi-awarded "Magnifico" and a selection of cutting-edge animation from the United Kingdom and Mowelfund-produced short films.

The British Council presents 20 titles

PELIKULA/ A29

"FLATWORLD"

SeeeMall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 THE AVIATOR	1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	LEMONY SNICKET'S	1 CONSTANTINE	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 CONSTANTINE	1 SON OF THE MASK
2 CONSTANTINE	2 THE AVIATOR	2 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	2 THE AVIATOR	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 THE AVIATOR	2 LEMONY SNICKET'S
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S	3 CONSTANTINE	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 CONSTANTINE		GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SIDEWAYS	3 SHALL WE DANCE
4 INFECTION	4 SON OF THE MASK	4 INFECTION		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 SON OF THE MASK	4 CONSTANTINE
5 SON OF THE MASK		5 SON OF THE MASK		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 LEMONY SNICKET'S	5
		6 THE AVIATOR			
		7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN			

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
McDonalds Event February 23, 2005	Justice League February 25-27,2005	Formation School & Kiddies Learning Centers Talent Show February 23, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 3 PARK	GREENBELT 3 LOBBY
Greenbelt Alfresco Theatre Nights Coming Soon in March	Vera Wang Gown Exhibit February 17-28, 2005

Onstage
REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents Busybody
at REP's GLOBE THEATER - Feb. 11,12,13,18,19,20,25,26,27

Ayala MUSEUM
Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue.
For inquiries, please call 757-7117

Onstage
AYALA CINEMAS

Onstage Greenbelt
in Ayala Center, Makati City
is now accepting bookings
for concerts, product launches
and other corporate events
for May to July 2005.

For bookings, please call
Lissa at 752 7862

"WITHOUT A DOUBT ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR! POWERFUL!"
— Tony Tusearo, TALKING PICTURES

"Brooks makes Spanglish a rich blend of humor and heartbreak."
— Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"Spanglish is a performer's showcase."
— Mike Clark, USA TODAY

Flor (Paz Vega), a beautiful, native Mexican woman becomes the housekeeper for the affluent, yet troubled Clasky family headed by Adam Sandler and Téa Leoni. The result is a witty perceptive collision of cultures and values, and a refreshingly honest look at such life-altering commitments as marriage, parenting and devotion to family.

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

OPENS MARCH 9 EXCLUSIVELY AT
AYALA CINEMAS

Every family has a hero

From the writer / director of TERMS OF ENDEARMENT and BROADCAST NEWS and the director of AS GOOD AS IT GETS

Spanglish

See the stars as they clash and bout for the
2nd CELEBRITY OPEN 2005
FEBRUARY 23
2PM-8PM
TIMEZONE GLORIETTA 4
sponsored by:
PERK SPA
AYALA CENTER
TIMEZONE

Timezone branches are located at:
Glorietta 4 729-5852/53
Glorietta 2 840-1256/0885
Greenbelt 3 757-3878
Greenbelt 1 752-6549
Alabang Town Center-Main 850-0574
Alabang Town Center-Cinema 850-6630
Starmall 718-3489
SM Megamall 687-6663
Greenhills 722-2189
Metropoint 833-9973
Market Market 886-7360
Cebu 032-232-3501
Robinsons Lipa (043)757-3612
Pavilion Mall 520-6747
NCCC Mall, Davao (082)299-4799

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
LoveMall!

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

• MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-8115/16
1 CONSTANTINE • THX
2 SON OF THE MASK 2
3 INFECTION
4 LEMONY SNICKETS' A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
5 AVIATOR
6 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
7 FOOTSTEPS
8 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
9 MEET THE FOCKERS
10 DREAMBOY

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 AVIATOR
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 SON OF THE MASK 2
5 INFECTION
6 LEMONY SNICKETS' A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
7 CONSTANTINE

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 RAY
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 INFECTION
5 CONSTANTINE
6 AVIATOR
7 LEMONY SNICKETS' A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
8 SON OF THE MASK 2

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31
1 CONSTANTINE
2 LEMONY SNICKETS' A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
3 INFECTION
4 SON OF THE MASK 2
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378
1 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
2 CONSTANTINE
3 SON OF THE MASK 2
4 AVIATOR

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 DREAMBOY
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

CAINTA 240-4661
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 CONSTANTINE
3 INFECTION
4 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

Exclusive SCREENING
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
February 23 - March 01

Footsteps are an intense thriller that maneuvers through a shocking maze of journalistic and legal entanglements. Jason Davis is a reporter who gets an anonymous tip that turns him into an eye witness to a judge's murder. Deputy D.A. Steve Carlon is assigned to the case. Separated from his wife Nancy, Jason meets Amber, an intriguing photographer. There is instant heat between them. As Jason gets increasingly violent death threats, he realizes the judge's killer is after him. He turns up clues that connect both Amber and Carlon to the murdered judge. In the white-knuckle climax, Jason's only hope is to catch the killer... who could be his lover.

Subject for MTRCB Rating

Karina LOMBARD
MariaConchita ALONSO
Damian CHAPA
FOOTSTEPS

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907
1 CONSTANTINE
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 RACING STRIPES
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 CONSTANTINE
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 RAISE YOUR VOICE
5 MADHOUSE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332
1 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 CONSTANTINE
4 INFECTION
5 RACING STRIPES

ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 CONSTANTINE
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471 8168
1 CONSTANTINE
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
5 SON OF THE MASK 2
6 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 SHALL WE DANCE
2 RAY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 CONSTANTINE
5 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
6 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

BACOLOD (034) 441 0453 (034) 441 0450
1 CONSTANTINE
2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 RACING STRIPES
5 SHALL WE DANCE
6 ALFIE

ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 CONSTANTINE
2 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
5 MEET THE FOCKERS
6 DREAMBOY

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Louie C. Camino**
Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

'Pelikula at Lipunan' reels off

"GODSPEED"

INDEPENDENT filmmaker Ditsi Carolino's "Bunso" opens the 12th edition of "Pelikula at Lipunan," starting today at the Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The movie documents the lives of three boys locked up in prison with hardened criminals.

Remaining true to its mandate, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, working with

PELIKULA/A31

The vivacious boys of 'Bora'

DIETHER OCAMPO as Ditoy

CARLOS AGASSI as Caloy

BERNARD PALANCA as Lenin

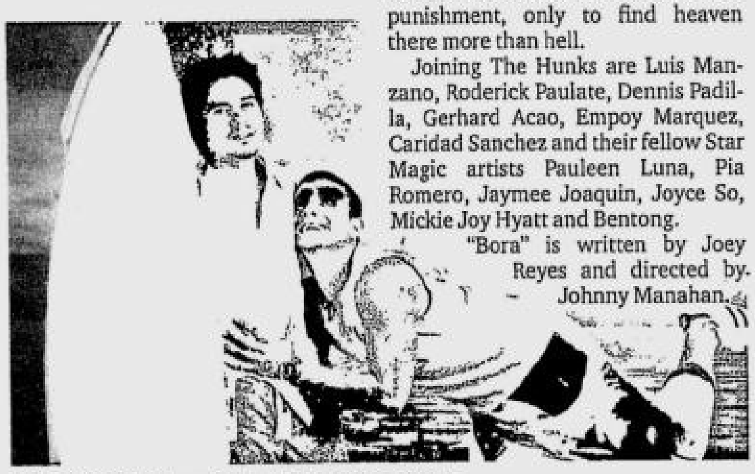
PIOLO Pascual, Diether Ocampo, Carlos Agassi, Bernard Palanca and Jericho Rosales, collectively known as The Hunks, now have their very own sitcom—ABS-CBN's "Bora" (Sons of the Beach).

Piolo plays PJ, owner of Krakatoa bar, the group's watering hole. Jericho is his cousin Alon, a happy-go-lucky guy who goes for weird women.

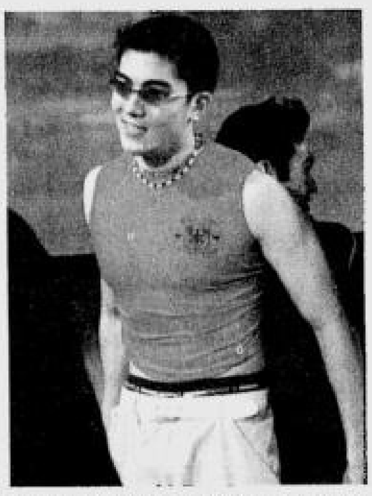
Deither is Ditoy, a Japino who works in a dive shop. He is the playboy here, but one who loses his bearings when it comes to Manila girls. Working with him at the shop is Carlos as Caloy, a body-building addict who's slow in the head and is therefore the butt of jokes. Bernard is Lenin, the dive shop assistant manager. He has banished to the island as a punishment, only to find heaven there more than hell.

Joining The Hunks are Luis Manzano, Roderick Paulate, Dennis Padilla, Gerhard Acao, Empoy Marquez, Caridad Sanchez and their fellow Star Magic artists Pauleen Luna, Pia Romero, Jaymee Joaquin, Joyce So, Mickie Joy Hyatt and Bentong.

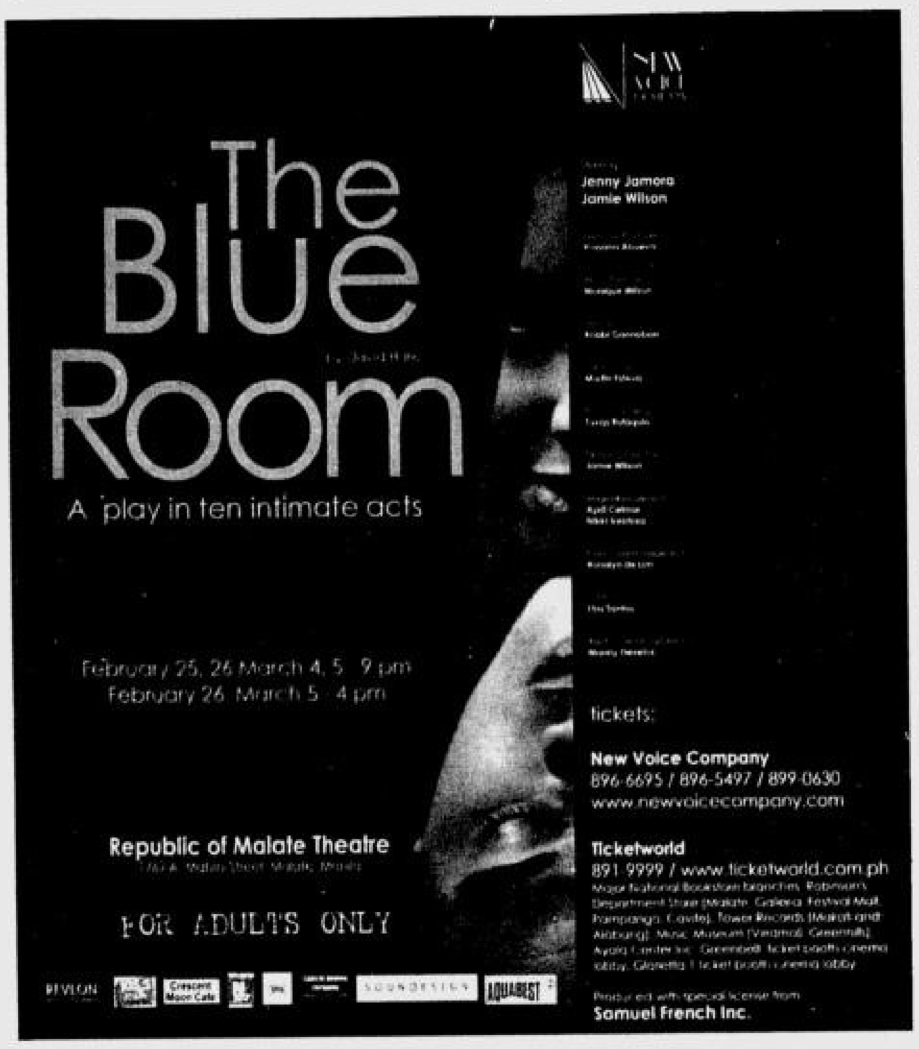
"Bora" is written by Joey Reyes and directed by Johnny Manahan.



PIOLO PASCUAL as PJ, Jericho Rosales as Alon



LUIS MANZANO should be a 'Hunk'



The Blue Room
A play in ten intimate acts
February 25, 26 March 4, 5 · 9 pm
February 26 March 5 · 4 pm
Republic of Malate Theatre
FOR ADULTS ONLY
Jenny Jamora
Jamie Wilson
tickets:
New Voice Company
896-6695 / 896-5497 / 899-0630
www.newvoicecompany.com
Ticketworld
891 9999 / www.ticketworld.com.ph
Produced with special license from
Samuel French Inc.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Wednesday, February 23, 2005

TUESDAY 7:30 PM and 10:00 PM
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM
American Idol
SPECIAL SCHEDULE THIS WEEK!
ABC Iba tayo
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM
ABS-CBN 2				Showbiz No. 1	Sandara's Romance	Masked Rider Ryuki		Gatekeepers	TV Patrol	
NBN	Value Vision	Value Vision		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision		Talk Ko 'To		Linya
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	PBA Game-Bol	PBA		PBA		Sentro	PBA
GMA 7		Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Joyride	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Knock Out	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	Scrubs	Everwood
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		On Air Tambayan
Solar		Wwe Heat		WWE Confidential		Fantastic Four	Static Shock	Godzilla	Incredible Hulk	Stargate SG1
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX
ETC		Knock First	JKX	The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace
Cinema One		Isang Tanong, Isang Sagot				Drama Studio. Nasaan Ang Puso				Sanib
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Project Arms	Wazzup Wazzup
AXN		The Contender			Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	Ripley's Believe It or Not		Samurai X	Samurai X	Andromeda (Season III)
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		American Idol		Ally McBeal	That 70s Show	The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International
National Geographic		Passport		Secret China		Chasing Time	Running For Freedom	The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles - Dr Brady Barr	Wild
Solar Sports					FIVB Grand Prix Russia vs. USA				ATP Open 13 2005 finals	
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's
HBO			Terminator 3: Rise Of The Machines				Touching Wild Horses (5:25 PM)			Enough (7:05 PM)
Star Movies			One Hour Photo			Rocky III (5:10 PM)				Dance With Me (6:50 PM)
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Static Shock	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN	Winter X Games VIII Classic Snocross		Big East Conf.: Notre Dame vs. Connecticut				UEFA Champions League 2004/05			
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/ Untalkative Bunny	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Lilo & Stitch/Untalkative Bunny
Cinemax	Detonator (2:45 PM)			Giant (4:15 PM)						
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	I Do But I Don't				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Judging Amy
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Kamikaze In Color
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Most Wanted		MTV Jams		MTV Jams Clips	MTV Dyes
Sports Plus						WTA Australia Final			You've Got to See This	NBA Game Boston @ LA Lakers
EWTN	Council Of Faith	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	The Donut Man	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Saints For The Third Millennium	The Virtues	EWTN Gallery	Mother Angelica Live Classics

Channel	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Spirits	Krystala	'Til Death Do Us Part	Hiram	Save The Last Dance	Yes Yes Show			Insider
NBN		Teledyaryo		Sinulog Festival				Paco Park Presents	
ABC 5					Big News	American Idol		Look Who's Talking	
GMA 7		Mulawin		Starstruck	Stairway To Heaven	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9		Ally McBeal		For Love Or Money 1		Newswatch Now	Cargo For Truth		
IBC 13		Dirok	Junior Reyes Report	Bestfriends	Celebrity Single	Entrepinoy	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
Solar		Wwe Raw				Wwe Heat		WWE Confidential	
Nickelodeon	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Nick Mix						Rugrats
MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Live!		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC	Good Morning Miami	Who Wants To Marry My Dad		Last Comic Standing		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Elandola	Change of Heart
Cinema One			Cinema One Present: Persona	Cine Tonight: Kadre (9:15 PM)				Bahid	
Studio 23	Mr. Bean	C.S.I.	Angel	Las Vegas Vacation		News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		Yes Dear
AXN		Maximum Exposure		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		The Contender		Alias (Season III)	
Star World	Friends	American Idol			Philly	Third Watch III	Third Watch III	Friends	American Idol
CNN		World News Asia		World News	Main Sail	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Passport		Taboo	
Solar Sports			NBA Action	NBA Game Toronto @ New Jersey					Ty Overtime W. Chamberlain
Lifestyle Network	E! Entertainment Special		You're Invited	Lifestyle		Style Star	Nigella Bites	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
HBO				Last Man Standing			Willard (10:40 PM)		
Star Movies				Daylight				Rambo First Blood 2	
Cartoon Network	Shaman King	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Codename: Kids Next Door	Mr. T	Josie And The Pussycats	Boomerang: The Superfriends	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN	Goals!	Sportscenter Taiwan	UEFA Champions League 2004/05					Soccer FIFA Fever	Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Princess of Thieves			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	George Of The Jungle 2	
Cinemax	Dead in the Water			Empire Of The Sun					Spy Game
Hallmark Channel		Hustle - 4		Jessica			Strong Medicine (10:35 PM)		Judging Amy (11:25 PM)
Discovery Channel				D-Day: 6.6.44		Ultimate Discovery		Hour Asia	
MTV Philippines		Wade Robson	Globally Dismissed	Boiling Point	Pimp My Ride	MTV Talk	05 MAA Power with Style	VH1 Video Collections	
Sports Plus					Bikini Destination	WTA Proximus Diamond Games Bergum Final			
EWTN		One In Their Hearts	Pope Pius XII	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15 PM)	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Our Father's Plan	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

TANONG NG BAYAN
MAY SAYSAY PA BA ANG EDSA I?
CELLCARD KADA ARAW, CELLPHONE KADA LINGGO! TEXT 2910 NOW!
TUWING HUWEBES
alas-11 ng gabi
pagkatapos ng American Idol
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

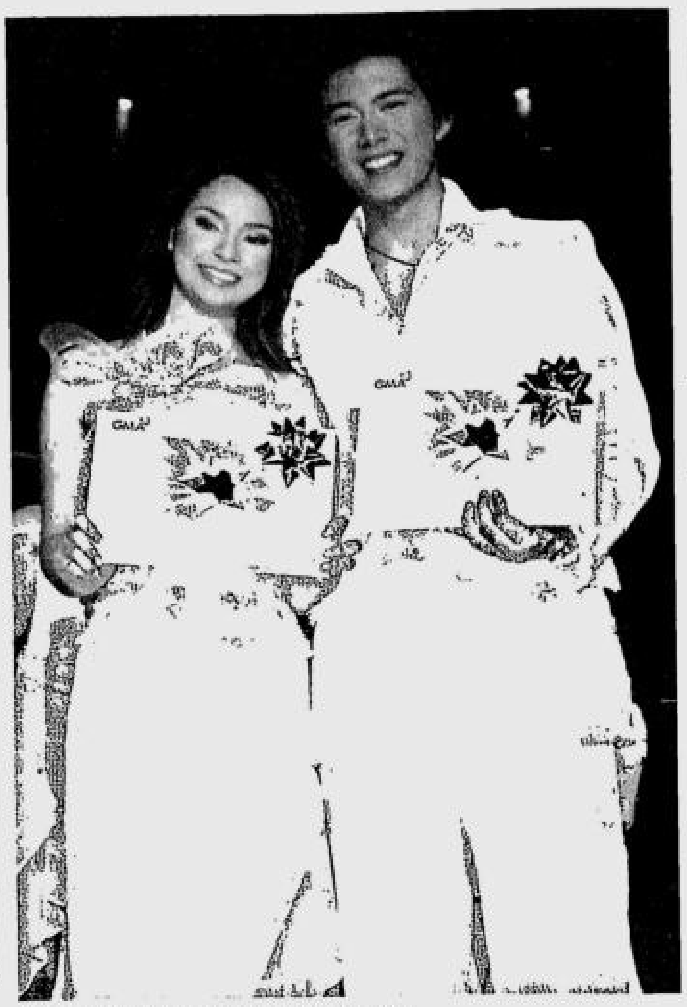
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**
Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
Text us your feedback: Inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

RYZA (center left) and LJ with Sex Bomb

STARSTRUCK Avengers with Bearwin Meily and Rufa Mae Quinto

RECEIVING her certificate from GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon


THE CHAMPS Ryza Cenon and Mike Tan

Mike and Ryza, Ultimate Survivors

SHOW STOPPER

By Carmela Teresa Almonte
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

ON JUDGMENT Night, Feb. 20, it was easy to spot fans of three StarStruck finalists in the jampacked Araneta Coliseum.

LJ Reyes' supporters wore blue shirts and "blinkies," CJ Muere's were in yellow, and Mike Tan's were in red and black. But when Ryza Cenon was named Ultimate Female Survivor, more than half of the estimated 11,000 spectators rose to their feet in a wild roar of delight, making their presence felt without any particular defining color.

HELLO, stardom

Mike was named Ultimate Male Survivor. It was a tight race; he got a score of 90.58 percent against CJ's 88.99.

Between segments, there was much merrymaking as the audience participated in a trivia contest about their idols. Whole rows chanted and cheered on their bets, taunting the competition. Mike's gay fans even changed the lyrics to The Bodies' "Wag Diyan" to: "Mike Tan, Mike Tan, *may kiliti ako dyan*, Mike Tan!"

The Ultimate Survivors each won P1 million in cash and P2 million in exclusive management contracts, which include movie assignments for GMA Films, commercial endorsements, and a role in the new GMA *telefantasya* "Darna."

Runners-up LJ and CJ each took home P200,000. They will also be featured in a GMA soap. CJ will also be Jollibee's next endorser.

Before the announcement of the winners, the Final Four wowed the audience with production numbers that paired them off with last season's finalists.

Dingdong Dantes and Jolina Magdangal hosted the show.

OPENING TODAY

Eccentrics, orphans and a mask

The Aviator

Directed by Martin Scorsese
Stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, Alan Alda, Alec Baldwin

This long movie (168 mins.) is the story of US aviation pioneer Howard Hughes (DiCaprio), the eccentric billionaire industrialist and Hollywood film mogul famous for romancing some of the world's most beautiful women. It recounts his life from the late 1920s through the 1940s, when Hughes was making movies and test-flying innovative aircraft that he created.

Ty Burr wrote in the Boston Globe: "Leonardo DiCaprio [is] a sleek dynamo as the young Hughes and believably bullheaded and distraught as early middle age and obsessive-compulsive disorder kick in. The film also features Cate Blanchett in a tour de force impersonation of Katharine Hepburn. But as its hero loses his way, so does the movie."

Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events

Directed by Brad Silberling
Stars Jim Carrey, Meryl Streep, Emily Browning

Three young orphans looking for a new home are taken in by a series of odd relatives, including Lemony Snicket, who narrates the film. Count Olaf (Carrey) hopes to snatch the kids' inheritance.

Roger Ebert wrote in Chicago Sun Times: "It's odd, how the movie's gloom and doom are amusing at first, and then dampen down the humor. There is no one in the movie to provide a reasonable reaction to anything; the adults are all demented, evil, or ... stunningly lacking in perception, and the kids are plucky enough, but rather dazed by their misfortunes."

Son of the Mask

Directed by Lawrence Guterman
Stars Alan Cumming, Jamie Kennedy, Bob Hoskins

The Mask of Loki has found its way to the hands of an aspiring cartoonist, whose son is born possessing some of its spectacular powers. But when Loki comes to earth looking for his "son," a power struggle of epic proportions and cartoon-like contortions ensues.

Mary-Liz Shaw wrote in Milwaukee Journal -

ECCENTRICS/ A2-3

BREAKING BOX OFFICE RECORDS!

Richard Gutierrez
Angel Locsin
Mark Herras
Jennylyn Mercado
Let the Love Begin
Their romantic journey starts here.
Directed by Mac C. Alejandre
EPSON
CHOCO NUT
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating G

PLDT
Sangkatutak Na Saya No.4

I-connect Ang Buong Barangay! Ikabit Ang Buong Kapitbahay!
Dahil May Goldmine Ka Sa Saya At Cash Credits!
Up To P4 Million To Be Won!

PLDT
"Landline Mo, Goldmine Ko!"

How to Goldmine Your Landline:

1. Promo is open to all current and new residential PLDT postpaid and Telesulit subscribers nationwide.
2. To join, subscriber must register and enrol at any PLDT Business Office to become an official Goldmine Agent.
3. For every approved and installed telephone subscription that is credited to his account, the Goldmine Agent receives the following:

GOLDMINE AGENT	For Every Post-paid Sub Approved and Installed	For Every Pre-paid Sub Approved and Installed
Post-paid Subscriber	Free P300 worth of NDD (PLDT-PLDT) and/or Vibe Internet Pay per Surf	Free P150 worth of NDD (PLDT-PLDT) and/or Vibe Internet Pay per Surf
Telesulit Subscriber	Free P300 worth of Load on existing Telesulit line	Free P150 worth of Load on existing Telesulit line

Note: *Credits/loads will automatically be credited to the account of the Goldmine Agent and will expire after one (1) month. Unused credits/loads will not be carried over to the succeeding month.*

4. To qualify for the cash prizes at the end of the promo period, Goldmine Agents should have at least fifty (50) approved and installed subscriptions. All qualified Goldmine Agents will be ranked according to the most number of approved applications and awarded the following:

Category	Cash Prize (in PhP)
Platinum Category: Top 5	Php 300,000
Diamond Category: Top 6-15	Php 150,000
Gold Category: Top 16 – 25	Php 75,000
Ruby Category: Top 26 – 35	Php 50,000
Silver Category: Top 36 – 45	Php 20,000
Bronze Category: Top 46 – 55	Php 10,000
Pearl Category: Top 56 – 65	Php 5,000

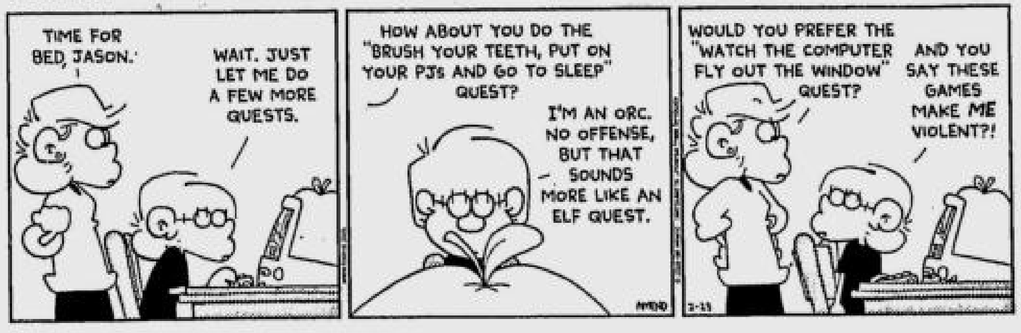
5. Promo period is from January 10, 2005 to May 10, 2005. Deadline for submission of referrals with complete required documents is on May 10, 2005, 5:00pm.
6. Successful new applications credited to the account of the Goldmine Agent are non-transferable.
7. The Goldmine Agent is not an employee of PLDT. He is not authorized to collect money or any other monetary form from the telephone applicants.
8. All existing promos at the time of the application shall apply to the applicant. PLDT will confirm availability of every line application by mailing an official notice to the subscriber. PLDT will install the line within five (5) days from receipt of payment. All subscriptions are covered by an 18-month contract or lock-in period. Pre-termination rates of P2,500 apply.
9. Standard policies of PLDT on Credit and Collection shall apply. PLDT reserves the right to disqualify any Goldmine Agent from the Program if any violation is committed on existing policies on subscription, credit and collection and/or commit acts of fraud.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3165, Series of 2004.

IBA PA RIN ANG MAY LANDLINE!
PLDT
GO TO YOUR NEAREST PLDT BUSINESS CENTER TO REGISTER AS AN AGENT.
Abangan!
Sangkatutak Na Saya Na May Kasunod Pa!

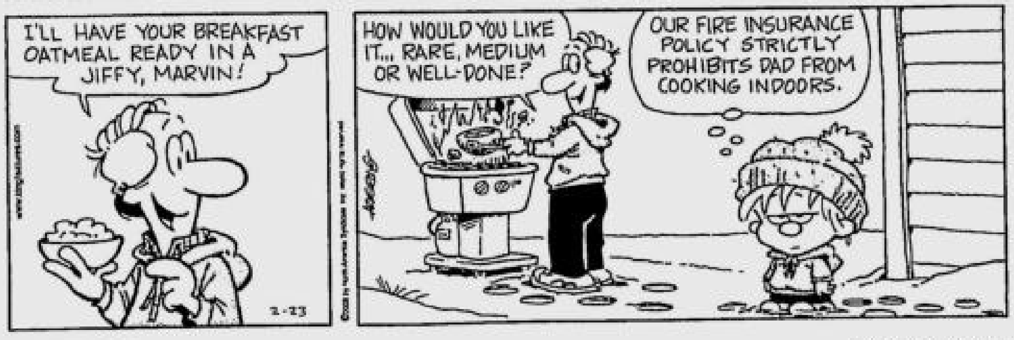
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


TIME FOR BED, JASON.
WAIT. JUST LET ME DO A FEW MORE QUESTS.
HOW ABOUT YOU DO THE "BRUSH YOUR TEETH, PUT ON YOUR PJs AND GO TO SLEEP" QUEST?
I'M AN ORC. NO OFFENSE, BUT THAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE AN ELF QUEST.
WOULD YOU PREFER THE "WATCH THE COMPUTER FLY OUT THE WINDOW" QUEST?
AND YOU SAY THESE GAMES MAKE ME VIOLENT?!
2-23

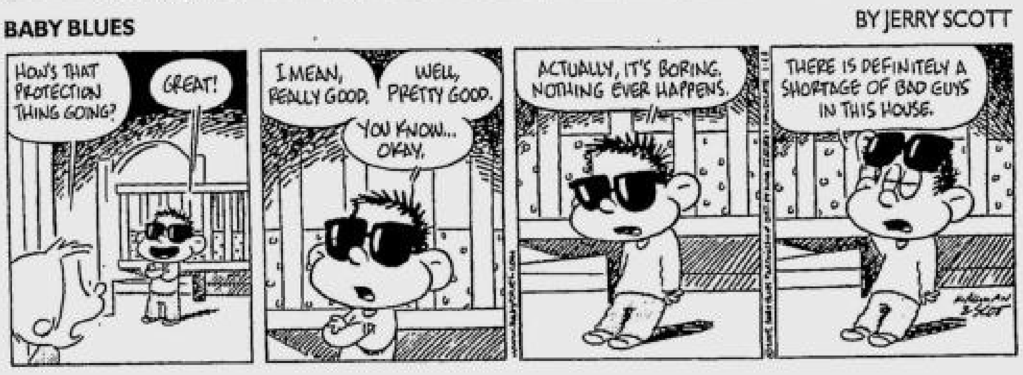
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'LL HAVE YOUR BREAKFAST OATMEAL READY IN A JIFFY, MARVIN!
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT... RARE, MEDIUM OR WELL-DONE?
OUR FIRE INSURANCE POLICY STRICTLY PROHIBITS DAD FROM COOKING INDOORS.
2-23

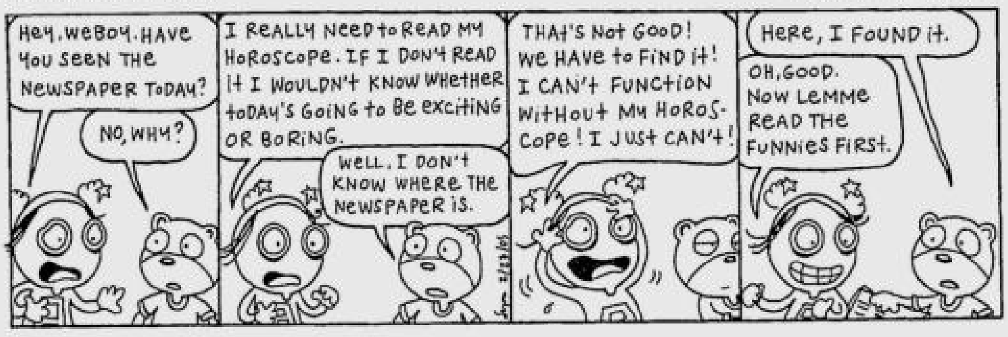
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW'S THAT PROTECTION THING GOING?
GREAT!
I MEAN, REALLY GOOD.
WELL, PRETTY GOOD.
YOU KNOW... OKAY.
ACTUALLY, IT'S BORING. NOTHING EVER HAPPENS.
THERE IS DEFINITELY A SHORTAGE OF BAD GUYS IN THIS HOUSE.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, weboy. HAVE you seen THE Newspaper ToDAY?
NO, WHY?
I REALLY NeeD to READ MY HoRoScope. IF I DON'T READ it I WOULDN'T KNOW WHETHER toDAY'S GoiNG to Be exciting OR BoRiNG.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE NEWSPAPER IS.
THAT'S Not GooD! we HAVE to FiND it! I CAN'T FUNCtion WitHout My HoRoS-Cope! I JUSt CAN'T!
Here, I FOUND it.
OH, GooD. Now Lemme READ THE FUNNies FIRSt.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're resourceful and pragmatic. You work with what you've got. You're intelligent, and you always approach things with an analytical mind. You're an excellent problem-solver. You are often cutting-edge, modern and way ahead of the pack. This year will see many changes in your life, some as significant as those in 1996.

Birthdate of: Peter Fonda, actor/director; Patricia Richardson, actress; Dakota Fanning, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You cannot avoid tension with co-workers today. This is because of the Full Moon. Just be patient. Let things unfold at their own pace. Don't push the river.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Parents must be extra-patient with children today. (It's the Full Moon.) Everyone feels increased tension now (not only children—even pets)!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Family discussions might be a bit tense today, especially with parental figures. You don't have to convince anyone of anything—not today. Relax .

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You want to win someone over to your ideas today, especially about politics or religion. But perhaps you're only preaching to the choir. Why not just live and let live?

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Avoid arguments about shared possessions and jointly held property. This is a bad day for these discussions. People are too emotional to think straight. (The Full Moon!)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today's Full Moon can trigger tension with close friends and partners. If you sense this starting to happen, walk away. Don't stir the pot with a good friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today's Full Moon affects your workplace and perhaps even your health. Take it easy. Don't try to win arguments. Don't get excited about things. Just relax.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Romantic relationships are tense and ripe for jealousy or resentment today. That's because the Full Moon makes you feel insecure about who you are and whether or not someone loves you. (Of course this person loves you. Relax.)

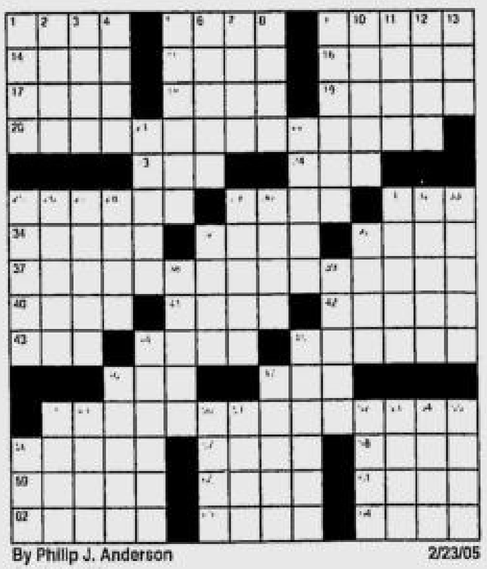
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a poor day for important discussions with bosses, parents, VIPs, teachers or any other authority figure in your life. Wait a few days, until this Full Moon passes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with relatives and siblings might be tense today. (The Full Moon makes everyone—including you—a bit pushy.) Why not wait until this has passed?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Today's Full Moon makes you a bit anxious about money. That's why this is a poor day to talk about sharing with others. (You want to keep what you own to yourself.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Don't try to persuade others to agree with you today. (Yesterday was quite another matter.) Today's Full Moon only increases opposition to your ideas.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

2/23/05

ACROSS
1 Increase
5 Wound growth
9 Primary
14 Comic Johnson
15 Sea eagle
16 Ms. Rogers St. Johns
17 Cake finisher
18 Top-rated
19 Two-legged support
20 Stunned in Chicago?
23 Do something
24 Solidify
25 Speak with many digressions
29 New York nine
31 Glove-box item
34 Nymph in Greek myth
35 Tex-Mex item
36 Medal of Honor recipient
37 Stunned at Scrabble?
40 __ qua non
41 Follow closely
42 Track events
43 Author of "The Daughter of Time"
44 Poet Teasdale
45 Element 53
46 Family girl
47 Dancer Miller
48 Stunned in the NBA?
56 Chinese cuisine
57 Art Deco artist
58 Threesome
59 Overhead
60 Highest cards
61 Touched down
62 "Luncheon on the Grass" painter
63 Trading place
64 Stockings

DOWN
1 Gallop or trot
2 Keystone site
3 Roman way
4 Roman tyrant
5 Spirit-raising occasion?
6 Tenant farm in Scotland
7 __ Domini
8 Pilsener or porter
9 Moral tales
10 Dimwit
11 Collection biz
12 Sty fare
13 Small amount
21 Ralph __ Emerson
22 Financier John Jacob
25 Cook in an oven
26 Bandleader Shaw
27 First president of the AFL-CIO
28 Make a bundle
29 Crime syndicate
30 Environmental sci.
31 Thanks, Jacques
32 Tennyson's "Enoch __"
33 Marshal's band
35 Russian ruler
36 Lew of tennis
38 Secret supply
39 Incorrect
44 Official seal
45 Be a parasite
46 Urbane
47 At a later time
48 Castro's isle
49 In a little while
50 United force
51 Killer whale
52 Provo's state
53 Singer Guthrie
54 Journalist Jacob August
55 Overdo TLC
56 Bad actor

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

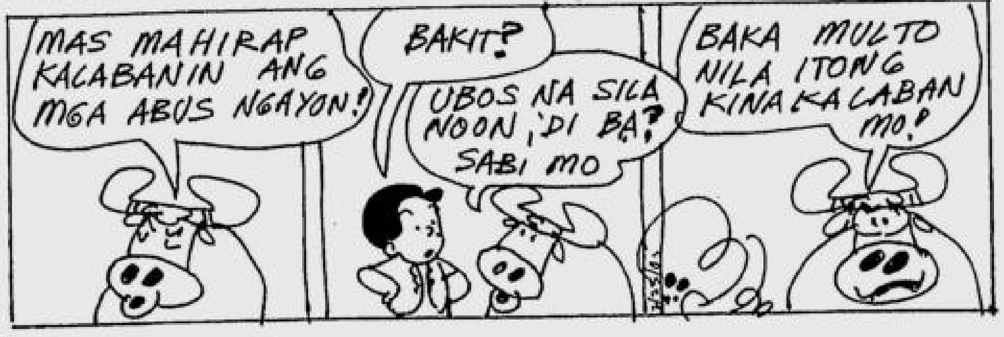
I	T	A	L	O	■	C	A	A	N	■	T	W	I	N
N	O	T	E	D	■	A	H	M	E	■	R	O	T	O
I	L	O	V	E	■	L	E	O	S	■	Y	E	A	S
G	E	N	E	R	A	L	A	S	S	E	M	B	L	Y
O	R	E	L	■	T	A	D	■	■	B	E	L	■	■
■	■	■	R	I	T	S	■	J	O	B	■	G	T	O
S	E	R	E	N	A	■	T	I	P	■	J	O	I	N
P	R	E	S	S	C	O	N	F	E	R	E	N	C	E
A	M	A	T	■	H	A	T	■	N	O	L	E	S	S
M	A	D	■	M	E	T	■	S	T	O	L	■	■	■
■	■	Y	A	O	■	■	S	A	O	■	Y	A	M	S
L	A	M	E	D	U	C	K	S	E	S	S	I	O	N
A	G	A	R	■	S	H	A	H	■	A	H	O	R	A
L	O	D	I	■	N	I	T	A	■	C	O	L	O	R
A	G	E	E	■	A	C	E	Y	■	S	E	I	N	E

(C)2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved

2/23/05

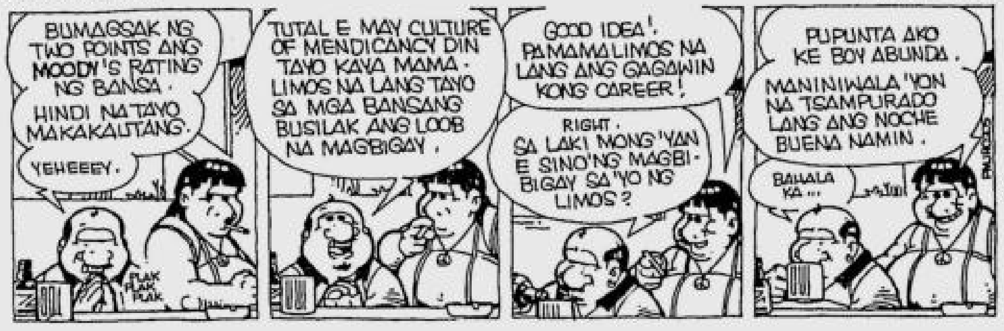
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAS MAHIRAP KALABANIN ANG MGA ABUS NGAYON!
BAKIT?
UBOS NA SILA NOON, 'DI BA? SABI MO
BAKA MULTO NILA ITONG KINAKALABAN MO!

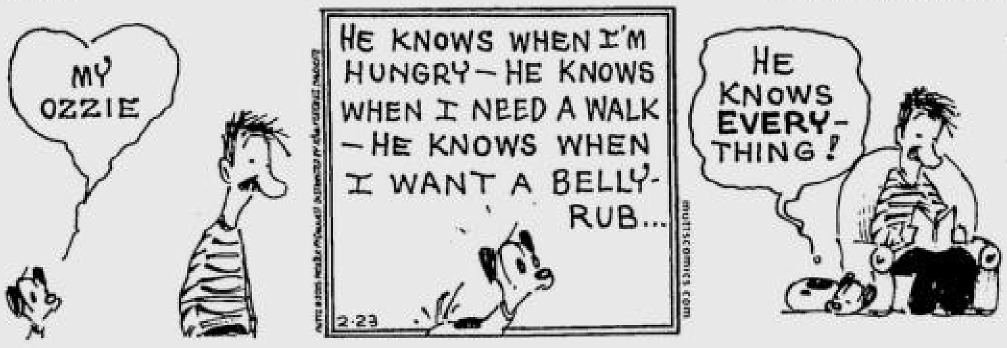
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BUMAGSAK NG TWO POINTS ANG MOODY'S RATING NG BANSA.
HINDI NA TAYO MAKAKAUTANG.
YEHEEEY.
PLAK PLAK PLAK
TUTAL E MAY CULTURE OF MENDICANCY DIN TAYO KAYA MAMALIMOS NA LANG TAYO SA MGA BANSANG BUSILAK ANG LOOB NA MAGBIGAY.
GOOD IDEA! PAMAMALIMOS NA LANG ANG GAGAWIN KONG CAREER!
RIGHT. SA LAKI MONG 'YAN E SINO'NG MAGBIBIGAY SA'YO NG LIMOS?
PUPUNTA AKO KE BOY ABUNDA.
MANINIWALA 'YON NA TSAMPURADO LANG ANG NOCHE BUENA NAMIN.
BAHALA KA...

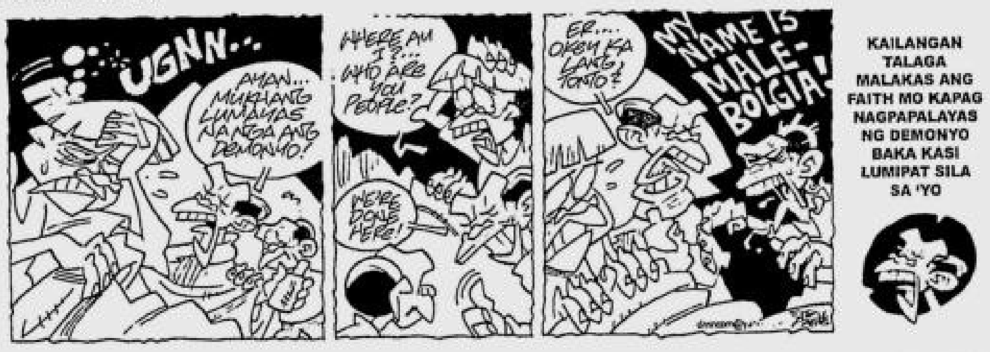
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MY OZZIE
HE KNOWS WHEN I'M HUNGRY—HE KNOWS WHEN I NEED A WALK—HE KNOWS WHEN I WANT A BELLY-RUB...
HE KNOWS EVERY-THING!
2-23
mutscomics.com

DIVINE COMEDY

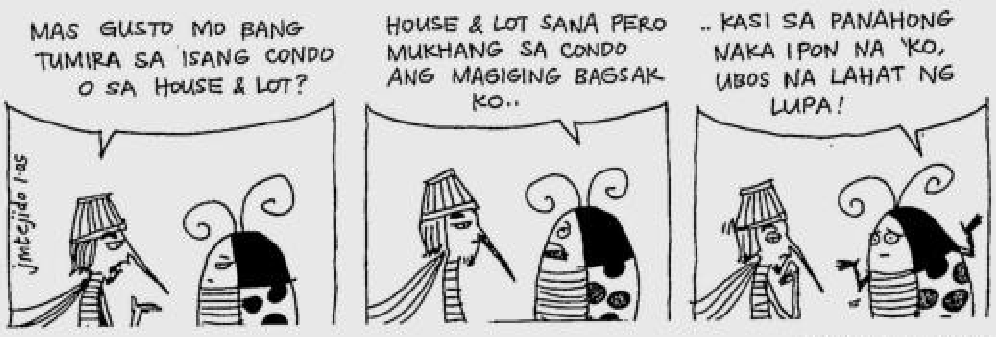
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


UGNN...
AMAN... MUKHANG LUMAYAS NA MGA ANG DEMONYO!
WHERE AM I?... WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?
WE'RE DONE HERE!
ER... OKEY KA LANG, TONTO?
MY NAME IS MALE-BOLGIA!

KAILANGAN TALAGA MALAKAS ANG FAITH MO KAPAG NAGPAPALAYAS NG DEMONYO BAKA KASI LUMIPAT SILA SA 'YO

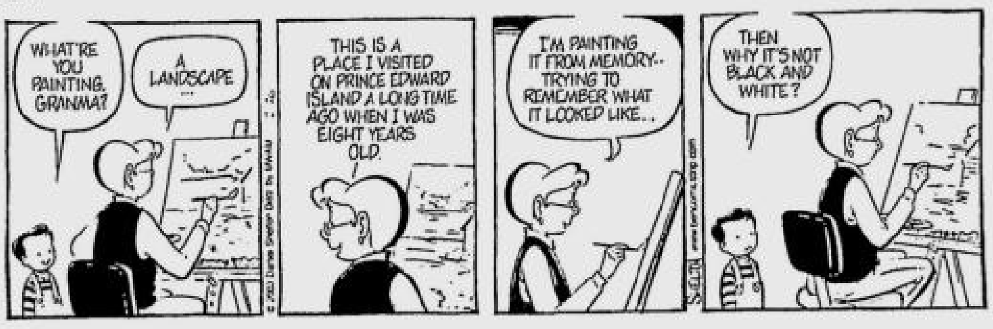
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MAS GUSTO MO BANG TUMIRA SA ISANG CONDO O SA HOUSE & LOT?
HOUSE & LOT SANA PERO MUKHANG SA CONDO ANG MAGIGING BAGSAK KO..
.. KASI SA PANAHONG NAKA IPON NA 'KO, UBOS NA LAHAT NG LUPA!
jmtejido 1-05

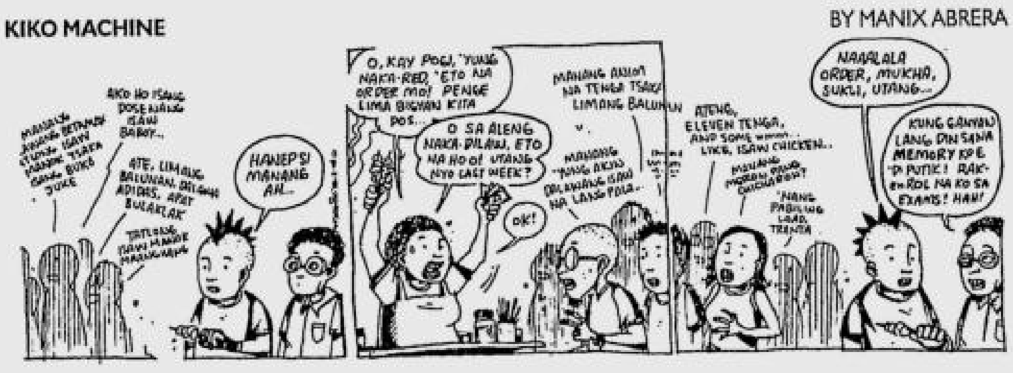
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT'RE YOU PAINTING, GRANMA?
A LANDSCAPE ...
THIS IS A PLACE I VISITED ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND A LONG TIME AGO WHEN I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD.
I'M PAINTING IT FROM MEMORY.. TRYING TO REMEMBER WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE..
THEN WHY IT'S NOT BLACK AND WHITE?

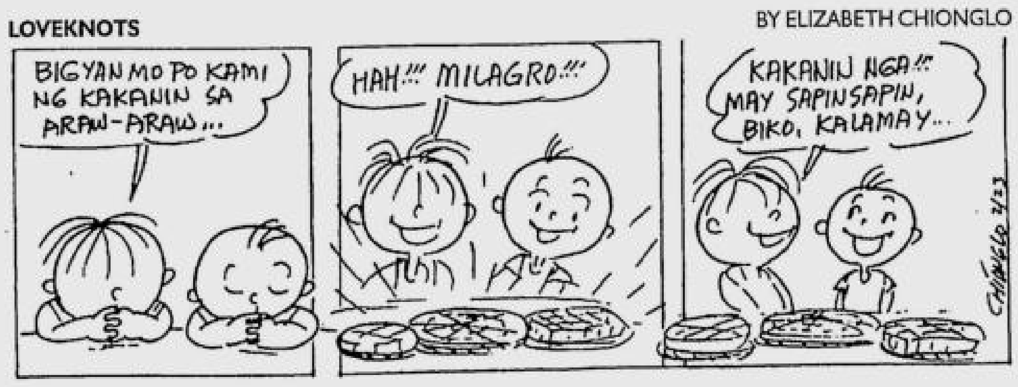
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AKO HO ISANG DOSENANG ISAW BABOY..
ATE, LIMANG BALUNAN, DILAW ADIDAS, APAT BULAKLAK
HANEP SI MANANG AH..
O, KAY POGI, 'YUNG NAKA-RED, 'ETO NA ORDER MO! PENGE LIMA BIGYAN KITA POS...
O SA ALENG NAKA-DILAW, ETO NA HO O! UTANG NYO LAST WEEK?
OK!
MANANG AKIN NA TENGA TSAKA LIMANG BALUNAN
MANANG 'YUNG AKIN DALAWANG ISAW NA LANG PO..
ATENG, ELEVEN TENGA, AND SOME UMMM... LIKE, ISAW CHICKEN..
'NANG PABILING LOAD, TRENTA
NAAALALA ORDER, MUKHA, SUKLI, UTANG...
KUNG GANYAN LANG DIN SANA MEMORY KO E 'DI PUTIK! RAKENROL NA KO SA EXAMS! HAH!

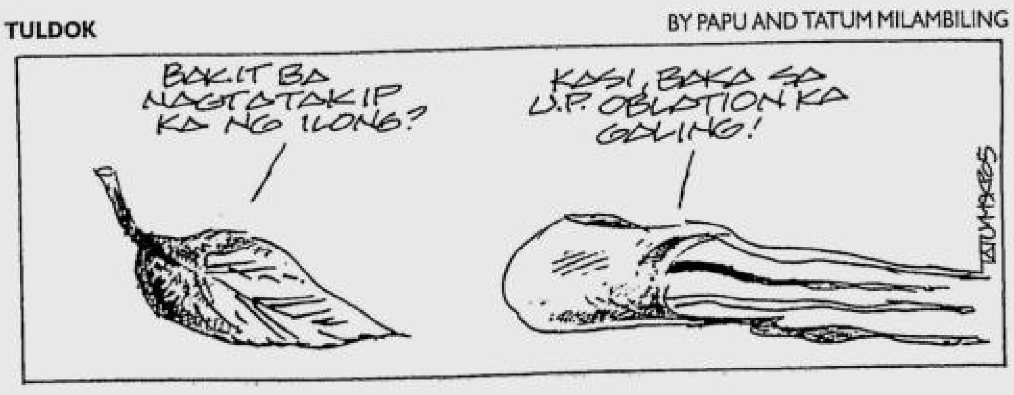
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BIGYAN MO PO KAMI NG KAKANIN SA ARAW-ARAW...
HAH!!! MILAGRO!!!
KAKANIN NGA!! MAY SAPINSAPIN, BIKO, KALAMAY...
CHIONGLO 2/23

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

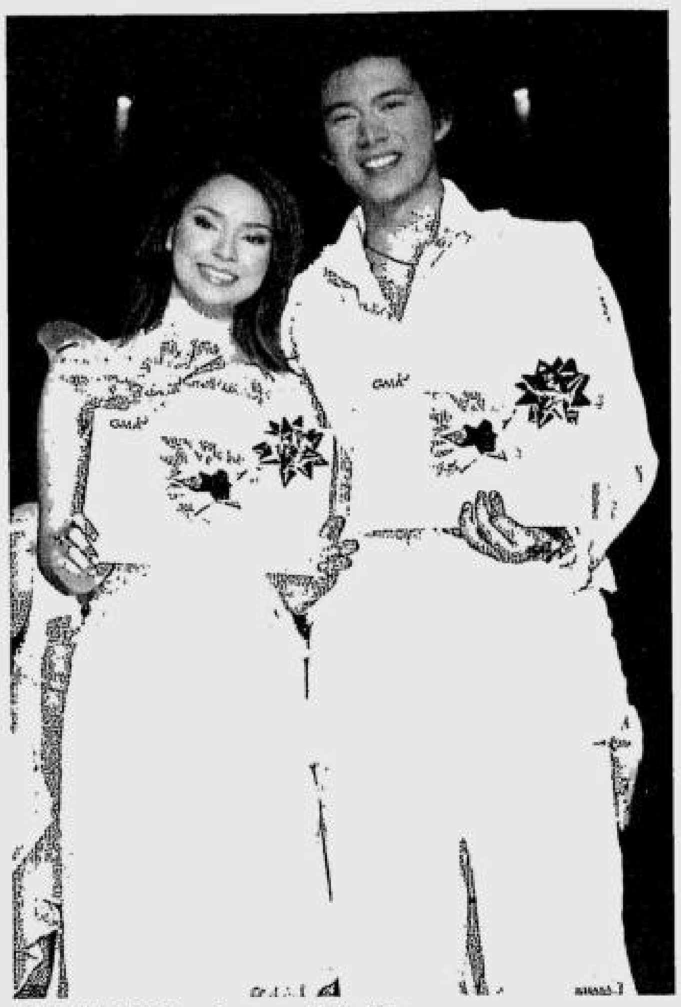

BAKIT BA NAGTATAKIP KA NG ILONG?
KASI, BAKA SA U.P. OBLATION KA GALING!

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Louie C. Camino
Assistant Editor Emmie G. Velarde
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

RYZA (center left) and LJ with Sex Bomb

STARSTRUCK Avengers with Bearwin Meily and Rufa Mae Quinto

RECEIVING her certificate from GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon


THE CHAMPS Ryza Cenon and Mike Tan

SHOW STOPPER

Mike and Ryza, Ultimate Survivors

By Carmela Teresa Almonte
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

ON JUDGMENT Night, Feb. 20, it was easy to spot fans of three StarStruck finalists in the jampacked Araneta Coliseum.

LJ Reyes' supporters wore blue shirts and "blinkies," CJ Muere's were in yellow, and Mike Tan's were in red and black. But when Ryza Cenon was named Ultimate Female Survivor, more than half of the estimated 11,000 spectators rose to their feet in a wild roar of delight, making their presence felt without any particular defining color.

Mike was named Ultimate Male Survivor. It was a tight race; he got a score of 90.58 percent against CJ's 88.99.

Between segments, there was much merrymaking as the audience participated in a trivia contest about their idols. Whole rows chanted and cheered on their bets, taunting the competition. Mike's gay fans even changed the lyrics to The Bodies' "Wag Diyan" to: "Mike Tan, Mike Tan, *may kiliti ako dyan*, Mike Tan!"

HELLO, stardom

The Ultimate Survivors each won P1 million in cash and P2 million in exclusive management contracts, which include movie assignments for GMA Films, commercial endorsements, and a role in the new GMA *telefantasya* "Darna."

Runners-up LJ and CJ each took home P200,000. They will also be featured in a GMA soap. CJ will also be Jollibee's next endorser.

Before the announcement of the winners, the Final Four wowed the audience with production numbers that paired them off with last season's finalists.

Dingdong Dantes and Jolina Magdangal hosted the show.

OPENING TODAY

Eccentrics, orphans and a mask

The Aviator

Directed by Martin Scorsese
Stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, Alan Alda, Alec Baldwin

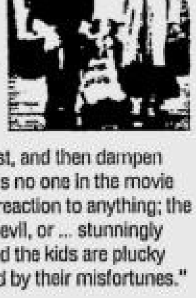
This long movie (168 mins.) is the story of US aviation pioneer Howard Hughes (DiCaprio), the eccentric billionaire industrialist and Hollywood film mogul famous for romancing some of the world's most beautiful women. It recounts his life from the late 1920s through the 1940s, when Hughes was making movies and test-flying innovative aircraft that he created.

Ty Burr wrote in the Boston Globe: "Leonardo DiCaprio [is] a sleek dynamo as the young Hughes and believably bullheaded and distraught as early middle age and obsessive-compulsive disorder kick in. The film also features Cate Blanchett in a tour de force impersonation of Katharine Hepburn. But as its hero loses his way, so does the movie."

Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events

Directed by Brad Silberling
Stars Jim Carrey, Meryl Streep, Emily Browning

Three young orphans looking for a new home are taken in by a series of odd relatives, including Lemony Snicket, who narrates the film. Count Olaf (Carrey) hopes to snatch the kids' inheritance.



Roger Ebert wrote in Chicago Sun Times: "It's odd, how the movie's gloom and doom are amusing at first, and then dampen down the humor. There is no one in the movie to provide a reasonable reaction to anything; the adults are all demented, evil, or ... stunningly lacking in perception, and the kids are plucky enough, but rather dazed by their misfortunes."

Son of the Mask

Directed by Lawrence Guterman
Stars Alan Cumming, Jamie Kennedy, Bob Hoskins

The Mask of Loki has found its way to the hands of an aspiring cartoonist, whose son is born possessing some of its spectacular powers. But when Loki comes to earth looking for his "son," a power struggle of epic proportions and cartoon-like contortions ensues.

Mary-Liz Shaw wrote in Milwaukee Journal ·

ECCENTRICS/ A2-3

BREAKING BOX OFFICE RECORDS!
Richard Gutierrez
Angel Locsin
Mark Herras Jennylyn Mercado
Let the Love Begin
Their romantic journey starts here
Directed by Mac C. Alejandro
EPSON
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating G

PLDT
Singkatutak Na Saya No.4
I-connect Ang Buong Barangay! Ikabit Ang Buong Kapitbahay!
Dahil May Goldmine Ka Sa Saya At Cash Credits!
Up To P4 Million To Be Won!

PLDT
"Landline Mo, Goldmine Ko!"

How to Goldmine Your Landline:

1. Promo is open to all current and new residential PLDT postpaid and Telesulit subscribers nationwide.
2. To join, subscriber must register and enrol at any PLDT Business Office to become an official Goldmine Agent.
3. For every approved and installed telephone subscription that is credited to his account, the Goldmine Agent receives the following:

GOLDMINE AGENT	For Every Post-paid Sub Approved and Installed	For Every Pre-paid Sub Approved and Installed
Post-paid Subscriber	Free P300 worth of NDD (PLDT-PLDT) and/or Vibe Internet Pay per Surf	Free P150 worth of NDD (PLDT-PLDT) and/or Vibe Internet Pay per Surf
Telesulit Subscriber	Free P300 worth of Load on existing Telesulit line	Free P150 worth of Load on existing Telesulit line

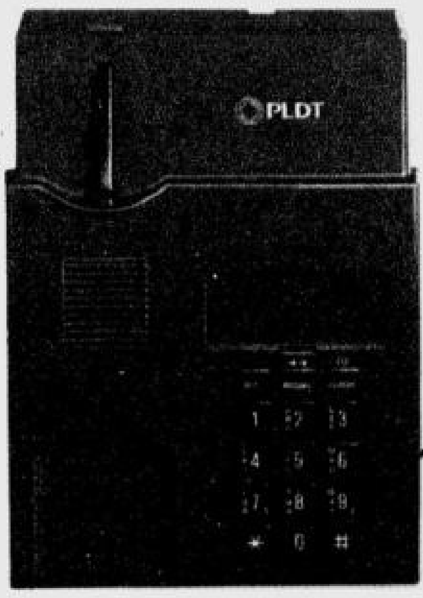
Note: *Credits/loads will automatically be credited to the account of the Goldmine Agent and will expire after one (1) month. Unused credits/loads will not be carried over to the succeeding month.*

4. To qualify for the cash prizes at the end of the promo period, Goldmine Agents should have at least fifty (50) approved and installed subscriptions. All qualified Goldmine Agents will be ranked according to the most number of approved applications and awarded the following:

Category	Cash Prize (in PhP)
Platinum Category: Top 5	Php 300,000
Diamond Category: Top 6-15	Php 150,000
Gold Category: Top 16 – 25	Php 75,000
Ruby Category: Top 26 – 35	Php 50,000
Silver Category: Top 36 – 45	Php 20,000
Bronze Category: Top 46 – 55	Php 10,000
Pearl Category: Top 56 – 65	Php 5,000

5. Promo period is from January 10, 2005 to May 10, 2005. Deadline for submission of referrals with complete required documents is on May 10, 2005, 5:00pm.
6. Successful new applications credited to the account of the Goldmine Agent are non-transferable.
7. The Goldmine Agent is not an employee of PLDT. He is not authorized to collect money or any other monetary form from the telephone applicants.
8. All existing promos at the time of the application shall apply to the applicant. PLDT will confirm availability of every line application by mailing an official notice to the subscriber. PLDT will install the line within five (5) days from receipt of payment. All subscriptions are covered by an 18-month contract or lock-in period. Pre-termination rates of P2,500 apply.
9. Standard policies of PLDT on Credit and Collection shall apply. PLDT reserves the right to disqualify any Goldmine Agent from the Program if any violation is committed on existing policies on subscription, credit and collection and/or commit acts of fraud.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3165, Series of 2004.



IBA PA RIN ANG MAY LANDLINE!
PLDT
GO TO YOUR NEAREST PLDT BUSINESS CENTER TO REGISTER AS AN AGENT.
Abangan!
Nangkatutak Na Saya Na May Kasunod Pa!

Eccentrics, orphans and a mask

From page A2-1

Sentinel: "To heck with suspense, I'll just tell you right now: Jamie Kennedy is no Jim Carrey."

Infection (Kansen)

Directed by Masayuki Ochiai

Stars Michiko Hada, Mari Hoshino, Tae Kimura

An old hospital is barely able to keep its doors open to the public due to a constant lack of medicine, facilities, and staff. When a doctor's negligence causes a patient to die, the staff covers it up, setting off a deadly chain of events.

International release is still in May, so there are no reviews on the Net in English. There are some in Japanese, German, and Farsi.

So far, so sad

From page A2-4

"I'll never set foot in that rat hole again/But I'll drive to your place." This is from "Man Like Me," the first track, which recalls what must have been countless rejections from prospective partners' parents and heaven knows where else from.

Setting the tone

It pretty much sets the tone of this bio-album, because then Downey proceeds to talk of drugs and sundry medication ("Broken"), their effects, and their ultimate futility.

In "Little Clownz," he wonders: "Where are the brides? All of my trees/That bend to be heard are missing."

And in "Kimberly Glide," one of our two personal picks (the other is "Your Move"): "Kimmy just smiles/Wants to stay forever/I'd have her/But we know it's just a word we'd never heard."

Be warned, it has to be said: Downey often delivers the lines like Elton John, his bosom buddy, used to. It's nearly impossible to make out anything on first hearing.

The singer's (perpetual?) state of mind is summed up in a four-word line: "So far, so sad." That's from the cut "5:30." Ordinary mortals would presume this is a song about dusk; we cannot make any such presumptions about Downey, whom melancholy has fueled as an artist (stage, screen and now, music), while the whole world watched.

Philosophy

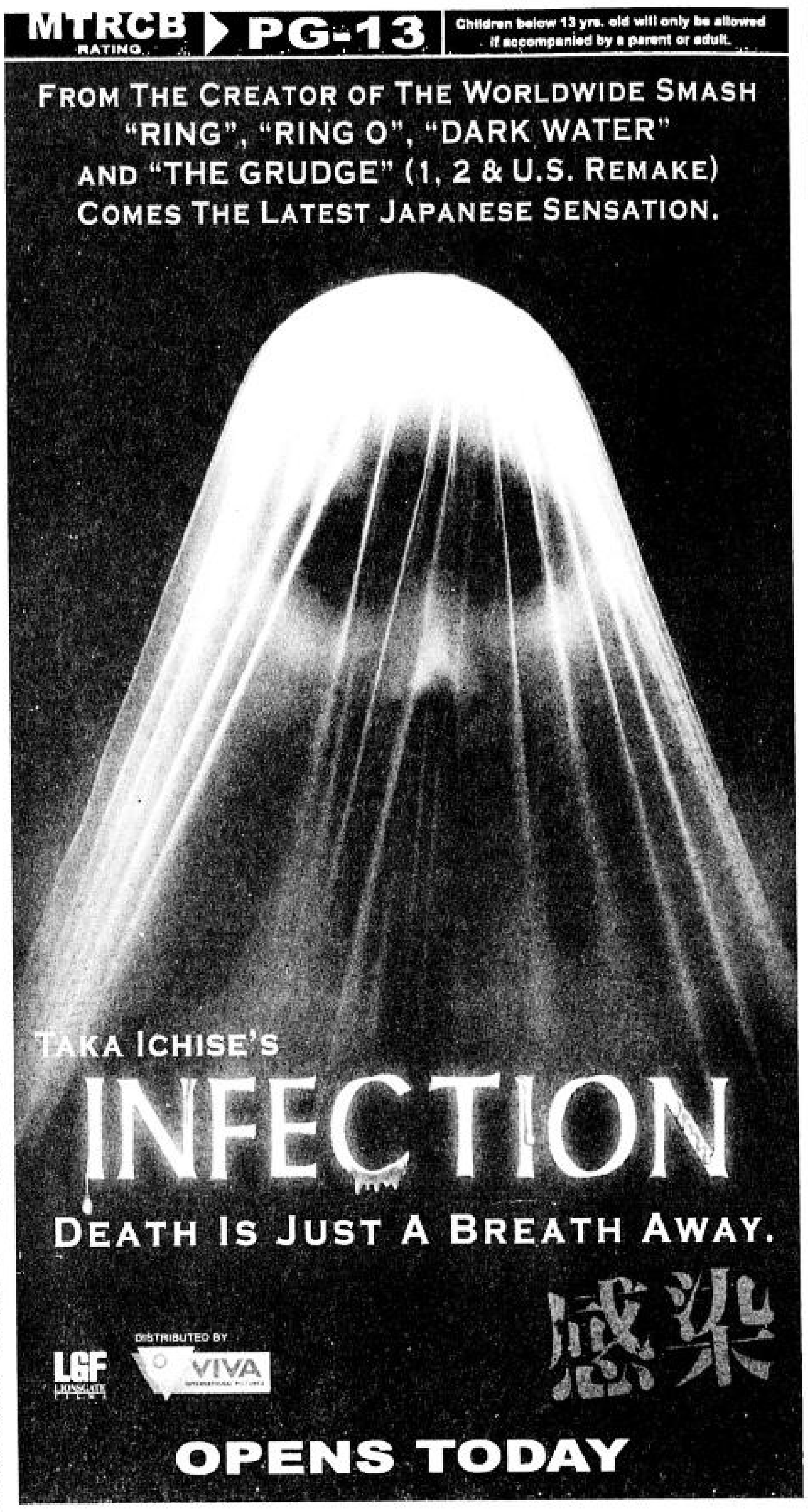
But by far the saddest song in this collection is "Details."

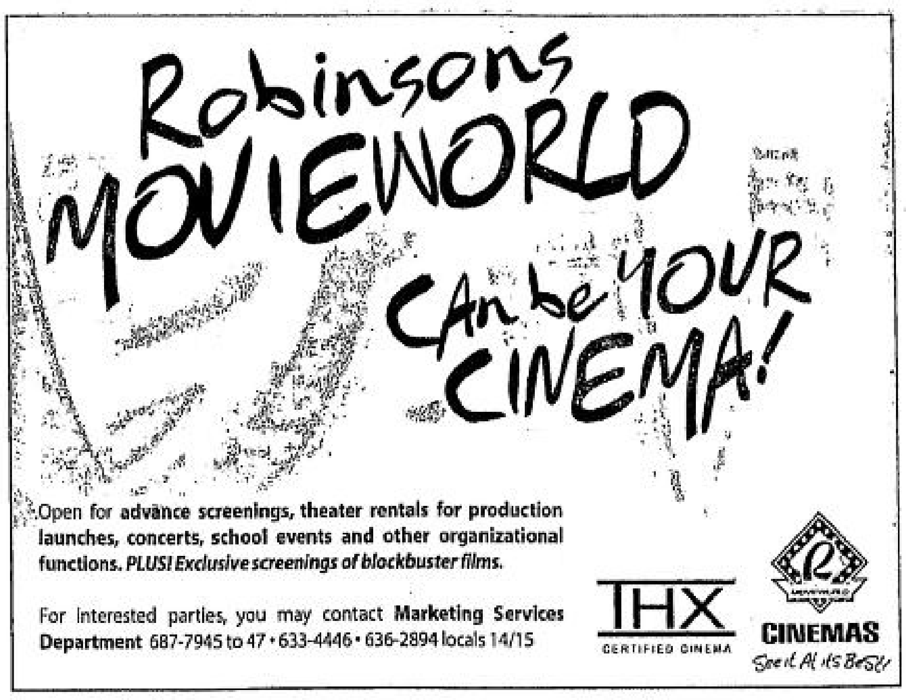
"I have come to believe/If a man does his deeds/While he's missing the wine/He's already died/A hundred times/I'll spare the details/Of the rocks and the nails."

This could be his philosophy in life. Never miss a drop of that wine—intoxication is reason enough to live.

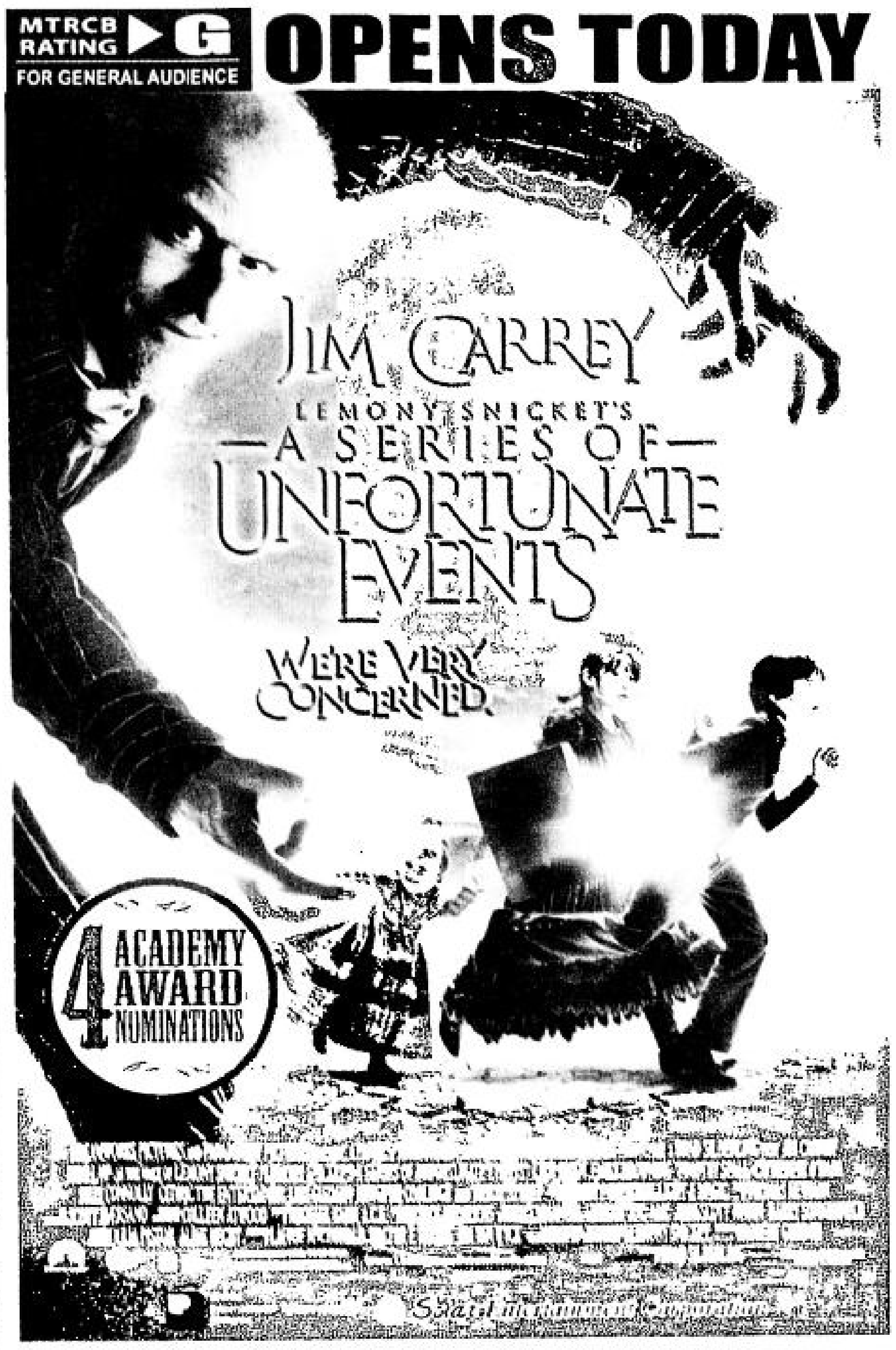
"The Futurist" sounds in part like Steve Winwood, Bruce Hornsby, Elton John, even Crosby, Stills & Nash. And then we realize this is really... Robert Downey Jr., warts and all.

He's at it again, doing his own new thing, the world be damned, and he sounds damn good.

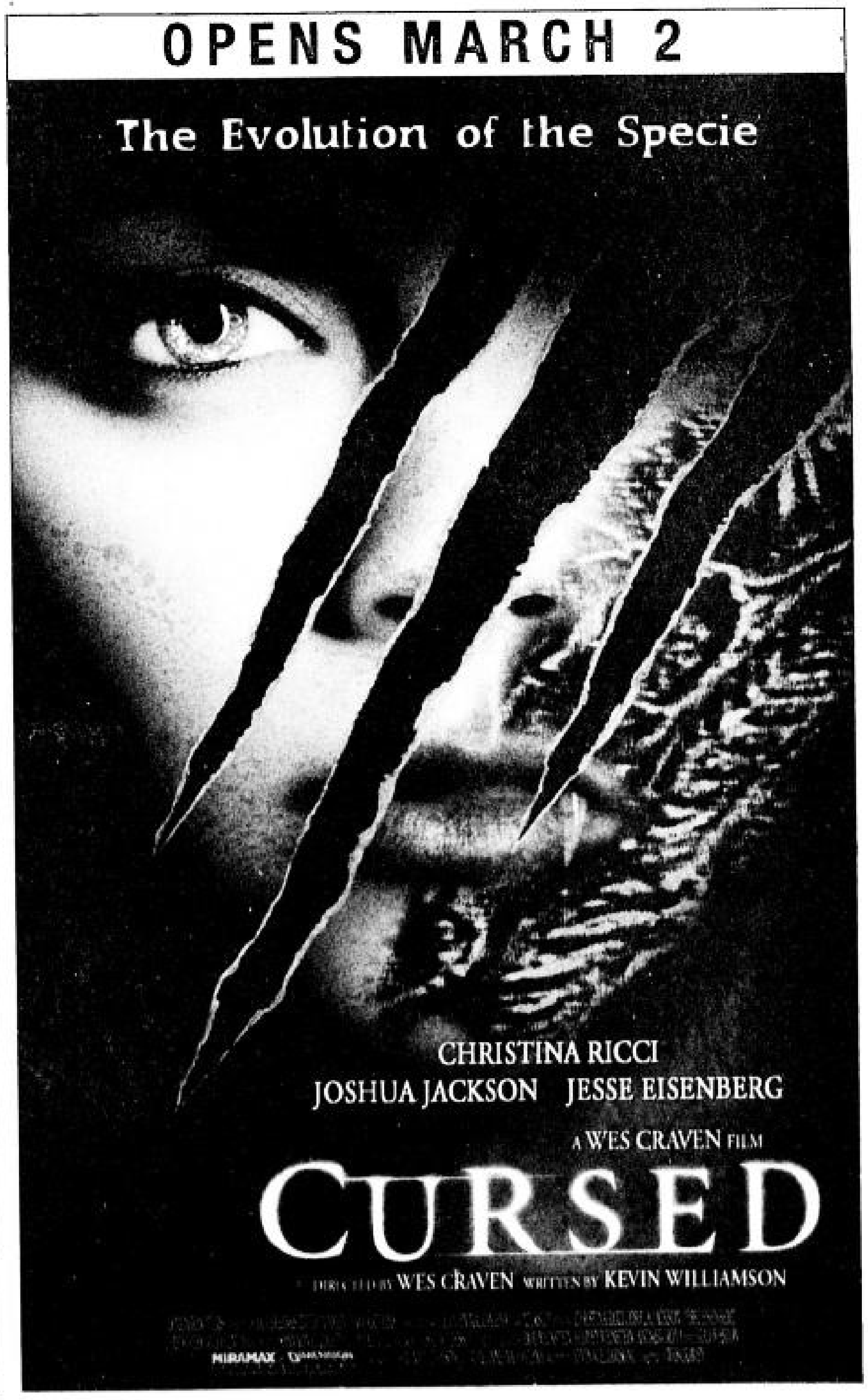

MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
FROM THE CREATOR OF THE WORLDWIDE SMASH "RING", "RING 0", "DARK WATER" AND "THE GRUDGE" (1, 2 & U.S. REMAKE) COMES THE LATEST JAPANESE SENSATION.
TAKA ICHISE'S
INFECTION
DEATH IS JUST A BREATH AWAY.
感染
LGF
DISTRIBUTED BY VIVA
OPENS TODAY


Robinsons MOVIEWORLD
CAn be YOUR CINEMA!
THX CERTIFIED CINEMA
CINEMAS
See it At its Best!
Open for advance screenings, theater rentals for production launches, concerts, school events and other organizational functions. *PLUS! Exclusive screenings of blockbuster films.*

For interested parties, you may contact **Marketing Services Department** 687-7945 to 47 • 633-4446 • 636-2894 locals 14/15


MTRCB RATING G
FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
OPENS TODAY
JIM CARREY
LEMONY SNICKET'S
A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
WE'RE VERY CONCERNED.
4 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS

OPENS MARCH 2
7 ACADEMY AWARDS® NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE
★ BEST DIRECTOR ★ BEST ACTOR ★ BEST ACTRESS ★
★ BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR ★ BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY ★ BEST FILM EDITING ★
2 GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER
BEST DIRECTOR ★ BEST ACTRESS
FACE YOUR FEAR
FIGHT TO WIN
CLINT EASTWOOD
HILARY SWANK
MORGAN FREEMAN
MILLION DOLLAR BABY


OPENS MARCH 2
The Evolution of the Specie
CHRISTINA RICCI
JOSHUA JACKSON JESSE EISENBERG
A WES CRAVEN FILM
CURSED
DIRECTED BY WES CRAVEN WRITTEN BY KEVIN WILLIAMSON
MIRAMAX

So far, so sad

THE TALENTED Mr. Downey is at it again, breaking our hearts

By Emmie G. Velarde

REVIEW

BEFORE Robert Downey Jr. decided to, it didn't seem like Sir Charlie Chaplin's "Smile" could be sung yet another way. Well, Downey did it, and gave the number a place of honor—the final cut—in his first-ever album, "The Futurist."

It's not a cheering rendition of this classic song of encouragement, not at all. It hurts; it turns from pleading to defiant and, finally, resignation. It's like hearing it from a man with one foot inside the gas chamber. The good news is, it's a worthy version anyway.

In terms of Sentiment (capitalized for emphasis, and because it must be the man's middle name), the nine other songs in the collection are, in the very least, painfully moving. It helps that the melodies are novel by pop standards, down to their structure, so that the listener's initial challenge is in following the musical strains before confronting the emotions—and they are raw... and they must be confronted—deftly woven in the lyrics.

Suffice it to say that, were they not set into notes, Downey's narratives would stand rather well as free verse. Of course he goes overboard at times. In Oprah Winfrey's expressed favorite, the second cut "Broken," this bit of wall-décor wisdom jumps out: "God grant me the strength to accept those things that I can't change."

Worry not; nothing else is as trite.

DOWNEY/ A2-3

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult. Strong caution for parents bringing little kids.

THE WAGER BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL IS ON EARTH
KEANU REEVES
CONSTANTINE
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
www.constantinemovie.com
NOW SHOWING

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
Voted Best Movie Theater
-Philippine Daily Inquirer's 2004 Yearend Reader Survey
For inquiries, call.
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 LEMONY SNICKET'S: Series of Unfortunate Events
PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME
PG-13

2 CONSTANTINE
PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME
PG-13

3 THE AVIATOR
PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME
PG-13

4 MASK 2: SON OF THE MASK
PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME
PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City
☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CONSTANTINE PG13	SON OF THE MASK	LEMONY SNICKET'S UNFORTUNATE EVENTS GP
AVIATOR PG13	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG13	AVIATOR PG13

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW	METROPOLIS ALABANG star	starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 726.61.50	Tel. No. 850.42.85	Tel. No. 873.50.04
3 Let The Love Begin	1 Infection	1 Kung Fu Hustle
4 Constantine	2 Night Job	2 Reserved
5 Night Job	3 Let The Love Begin	
	4 Dreamboy	
	5 Constantine	
	6 Son of the Mask	

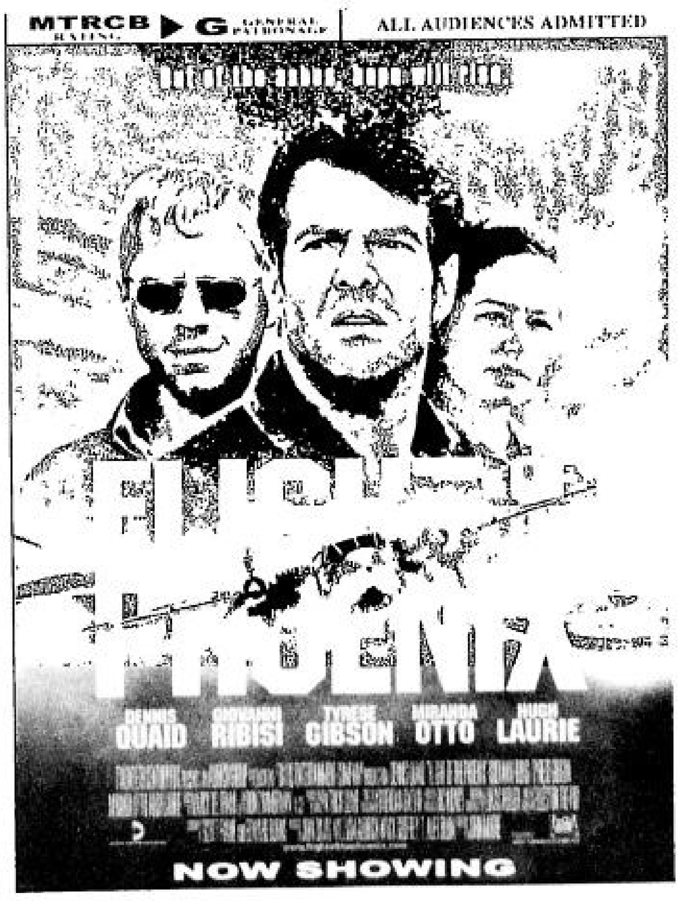
Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

WEAR YOUR MASK TODAY
From George Lucas' ILM Company, who created the special effects for STAR WARS and HARRY POTTER,series comes the year's most stunning visual experience. Based on the popular Dark Horse Comic character.

SEQUEL TO THE #1 BOXOFFICE HIT
SON OF THE MASK
THE POWER OF MISCHIEF
NEW LINE CINEMA PRESENTS A RADAR PICTURES PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH DARK HORSE ENTERTAINMENT A LAWRENCE GUTERMAN FILM JAMIE KENNEDY ALAN CUMMING "SON OF THE MASK" TRAYLOR HOWARD STEVEN WRIGHT KAL PENN
www.sonofthemask.com

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AUDIENCES ADMITTED



FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
DENNIS QUAID GIOVANNI RIBISI TYRESE GIBSON MIRANDA OTTO HUGH LAURIE
NOW SHOWING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

B1

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

AUDIOVISUAL • COMPUTER
RENTALS
Call: RENTAL DIVISION
THE BRAIN
Your One Stop Audiovisual Shop
CONVENTION • SEMINAR
TRAINING • MEETINGS
CORPORATE EVENT • CONCERT
PARTIES • SPECIAL OCCASION
TRADE SHOW • EXHIBIT
☎721-2466 • 722-8843 • 722-8845 • 727-9803

Foreign chambers buck VAT on IPPs

By Michelle V. Remo

FOREIGN business chambers are one in opposing the government's proposal to impose a value-added tax on electricity, stressing that it would further drag down the competitiveness of businesses operating in the Philippines.

The foreign chambers said in a joint position paper that businesses here were already suffering from a higher operating cost compared with their counterparts in the region, and that their situation would be aggravated should the VAT plan be pursued.

The business groups, led by the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, also warned that the additional cost in electricity would discourage investments to the Philippines, whose power rates were already among the highest in Asia.

"Foreign firms considering expansion of existing manufacturing operations in the Philippines or locating here for the first time will be deterred from investing by higher power rates, in addition to other existing inefficiencies in the cost of doing business," the business groups said.

Aside from Amcham and the Canadian business chamber, other foreign business chambers opposed to the proposed VAT on electricity include the Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, and the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters.

The government's economic team is pushing for the lifting of the VAT exemptions of several sectors, including that of independent power producers (IPPs). By imposing a VAT on IPPs, on top of moves to again raise generation charges by the cash-strapped National Power Corp., electricity rates are expected to further go up.

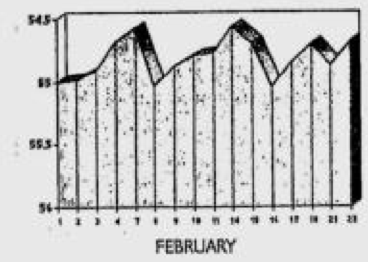
The move to impose a VAT on IPPs is part of the Arroyo administration's revenue-raising proposal to reform the VAT system. The economic team said there should be less VAT exemptions as possible to improve the efficiency in collecting the tax, and therefore help ease the government's lingering budget woes. Apart from lifting VAT exemptions, the Arroyo administration is also pushing to raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent.

The foreign business chambers said they were not against the proposal to raise the VAT rate by two percentage points and imposing a VAT on currently exempted sectors, but said electricity should be spared.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P54.68 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 22, 2005

¥104.54 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 22, 2005

GOLD: $ 427.00-427.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 21, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares end lower on technical correction

SHARES ended lower yesterday for the third straight session due to security concerns following bombings last week and government delays in raising the value-added tax, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 30.39 points, or 1.5 percent, to end at 1,992.27, following a loss of 3 percent Monday. Decliners led gainers 97 to 27, while 35 stocks were unchanged.

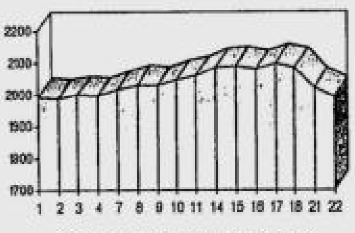
The loss brings the total index decline to 5 percent since last Friday following its best finish in over five years.

Dragging down the index were losses by blue chips Ayala Corp., down 5.2 percent at P7.30; its unit Ayala Land, off 5.4 percent at P8.70; and affiliate Bank of the Philippine Islands, lower by 3.6 percent at P54.

Some stocks managed to rebound from the sell-off. Benpres rose 3.2 percent to P1.30. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. rose 0.4 percent to P1,360 on bargain hunting.

DA Market Securities president Nestor Aguila said he believed the sell-off was exaggerated, with investors latching on to negative news as an excuse to unload holdings. *AP*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Treasury bond rate eases to 12.375%

By Michelle V. Remo

WITH a high level of market liquidity, the 10-year treasury bond rate dropped to 12.375 percent during yesterday's auction, continuing the declining trend in yields of government securities.

The new rate for the 10-year debt instrument was 37.5 basis points lower than the 12.75 percent recorded in its previous auction in July last year.

"The liquidity of the market is still positive. The market is still reacting positively to the development on the fiscal front and the legislative measures being pushed (to address the fiscal problem)," outgoing National Treasurer Norma Lasala said in a press briefing after the auction.

Lasala, who will serve as treasurer until the formal appointment of banker Omar Cruz, was referring to government efforts to push for revenue-raising measures to improve its fiscal situation.

The domestic capital market for the 10-year treasury bonds, composed mostly of banks and insurance companies, scrambled for the long-term government security. The debt instrument was highly oversubscribed, as tenders reached P14.33 billion compared with the government's offering of only P8 billion.

The Treasury's auction committee accepted P8 billion, or its entire borrowing requirement for the week, believing it got a good coupon rate of 12.375 percent.

Despite the huge market ap-

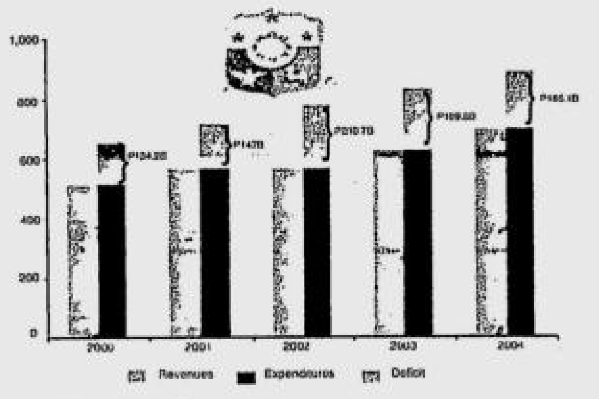
TREASURY/ B5

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

RP revenues, expenditures, deficit

(2000 to 2004, in billion pesos)



Source of basic data: Bureau of Treasury

THE BUDGET deficit last year was below the expected P197.8-billion ceiling but was still substantial at P186.1 billion. Total revenue was P21.8 billion more than the targeted earnings at P698.3 billion, but total expenditures also overshot the target by P10.4 billion at P874 billion. For 2005, the deficit is projected to be between P177 billion and P180 billion.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Sending out your annual report?

We're ready to go!

Congratulations on your well-made annual report. Time to take the next step with quality delivery by 2GO Direct Mail.

Here's what we have to offer your company:
- Competitive rates
- Instant and round-the-clock tracking of each delivery using the internet
- The most wide-ranging national network with more than 300 offices, outlets and depots nationwide
- Nationwide delivery using 6 aircraft, 159 vans and trucks, and 250 motorcycles
- Quality handling by highly-professional and well-trained staff of over 500 people.

Let our passion for delivery ensure that your stockholders get your message on time. To know more about 2GO Direct Mail, fax the form at left or call Ms. Rey Paris or Ms. Ellyn Tare at tel (02) 854-0722 to 23.

2GO Direct Mail
PLEASE FAX TO (02) 851-7702
I AM INTERESTED IN 2GO DM, PLEASE CALL ME!
NAME____________
POSITION____________
OFFICE & ADDRESS____________
____
TEL/CEL#____________

Website www.2go.com.ph
Email customerservice@2go.com.ph

2GO
an Aboitiz company

Sky offers unlimited Internet plan at fixed rate

By Clarissa S. Batino

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc. yesterday said Sky Internet was now offering an unlimited dial-up Internet plan at the lowest monthly flat rate of P499.

The move will allow the company to capture a bigger share of the market.

Lopez-owned Bayantel has about 15,000 Internet subscribers and it aims to attract thousands of additional subscribers with the new plan.

Unlimited dial-up plans cost between P600 and P900 a month, although some players are offering a flat rate of P500 a month.

Rodrigo Montinola, head of Bayantel Manila retail unit, said the P499-a-month offer was a plan and not a promo. But it will initially be made available in Metro Manila only.

The Sky Internet's plan was offered following a survey conducted by Bayantel showing that an average user consumes P100 for prepaid card a week.

"Based on this research, we believe Sky Internet's plan offers superior value to the user by providing unlimited Internet connection using any telephone service," he said.

"By offering unlimited Internet connection at a fixed rate, we are providing the growing mass of Internet users the best value for their Internet needs while encouraging more households to hook up without the fear of paying for fluctuating monthly charges," Montinola added.

Montinola assured users that Sky Internet would continue to deliver the ease and speed of Internet connectivity that the company was noted for.

The company recently launched the new XLR8 Technology, a new feature that speeds up Internet surfing up to six times faster than regular dial-up speeds based on internal tests and it is exclusive only for Sky Internet users.

XLR8 works by decreasing transmission traffic through compression, caching, file download acceleration and ad-blocking. It also comes with privacy and security features that shield the user's PC from harmful viruses and annoying applications acquired from the Internet. It also offers Sky Internet subscribers a security option that will prevent children from accessing unwanted websites.

Low budget for infra projects worries construction sector

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL cement makers and constructors are concerned over their viability as the government minimizes spending on infrastructure and tends to rely more on foreign funds for such projects, which require importation of materials from lending countries.

The Cement Manufacturers' Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Constructor Association expressed "frustration" over the continuing construction slump in the country.

In a statement, Cemap said prospects for the industry "remained grim" as the government's budget for big infrastructure projects was limited to just a tenth of the total market size.

Cemap said that most of the government's infrastructure projects were contracted under "tied" foreign loans. Tied loans call for the importation of materials and supplies from the lending countries.

The group said these projects included the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project; the Bacolod City and Iloilo City airports; the repair of the Alabang viaduct and the widening and extension of the Southern Luzon Expressway, and the rehabilitation of the 17-kilometer Epifanio de los Santos Avenue or Edsa.

Cemap president Felix Enrico R. Alfiler said the prospect of a continuing slump, the volatile swings in the prices of coal (fuel for power generators used in the cement factories) and other costs posed a serious threat to the viability of cement firms.

Alfiler said the companies were continuing efforts to test the use of alternative fuels as prices of coal and freight rose. "But these take time and firms just have to manage in such a way (cement prices would not go up so much)."

He said that as the cost of most construction materials had gone up by 15 percent to 20 percent, cement companies were doing their best to squeeze their profit margins.

"But we cannot absorb all the cost increases for too long," Alfiler said.

Cemap is asking the Tariff Commission to reimpose on cement imports a safeguard duty of P15.60 per bag, which the government lifted last December. The Commission has yet to decide on the petition.

Cemap chair Renato Sunico said the safeguard measure was needed to make sure that the local cement industry was strong to meet the needs of economic recovery. "We are asking for a breathing space."

Rising coal prices put pressure on RP industries

INCREASES in coal prices and freight rates in the region pose a heavy burden on Philippine industries that have yet to recover from both the Asian and local fiscal crises.

Coal prices in the region have skyrocketed due to unprecedented demand from China. From an average of $27.45 per ton in 2003, coal prices rose 113 percent to $58.47 as of the third quarter of 2004.

Coal prices hit a high of $63.12 per ton last month, or an increase of 130 percent from the 2003 prices, according to Platts International Coal Report.

These prices do not include the cost of freight and transportation from the main coal sources in the region, including China, Indonesia, Australia and Russia.

The shortage of vessels in the region further compounded the coal crisis in the Philippines.

More recently, the coalmine explosions in China's Liaoning and Yunan provinces also further threaten coal supplies to the Philippines, which is already suffering from high coal prices and limited local supply.

China's freight rates also increased from $12 to $15 per ton, due to the increased need for raw materials owing to China's rapid modernization as the country gears up for the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the 2010 Shanghai World Exposition. This has spurred a series of freight rate increases throughout the region as well, in addition to the difficulty of securing vessels for travel to countries other than China.

Prices of Vietnamese and Australian coal also increased, as well as those from neighboring country Indonesia. The three countries also experienced increases in freight costs, adding to the local industries' burdens and making regional trade and local production more costly for industries such as power, chemicals, cement and steel.

GO ANYTIME ANYWHERE!

FREE RIDER
Portable Scooter
- For Seniors
- Fits in any trunk
- Powerful & Comfortable
- Ideal for shopping in malls

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
STAR MILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Floor (45) 636-3513
SM MANILA 5th Floor 484-1471
ROBINSONS PIONEER 2nd Floor 687-6828
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-0436
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 802-1565
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-7540
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061
CEBU 417-8286

Chic Uniform, Inc.

WE MAKE UNIFORMS FOR
• OFFICES • SCHOOLS • FACTORIES •
• HOSPITALS • SECURITY GUARDS •
• NURSES • HOUSEKEEPERS •
• READY-MADE SCRUB SUIT •

Unit 27-Q Burgundy Corporate Tower
252 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Call us: 843-7633 / 843-7539 / 843-7637

KING JAMES AUCTION
"Best Choice - Ultimate Solution"
PUBLIC AUCTION
AUCTION DATE: Feb. 26, 2005 (Saturday) 10:30 AM
Inspection Dates: Feb. 24-25, 2005 @ 9AM - 7PM
Site Address: 27 BELFAST AVE., NORTH FAIRVIEW (NEAR SM & ROBINSONS FAIRVIEW) Q.C.

"EVERYTHING MUST GO"
OVER 900 LOTS, JETSKI; MITSUBISHI 20 KVA SUPER SILENT; FURNITURES; GUEST CHAIRS; SIDE TABLES; BOOKSHELVES; WOODEN DISPLAY CABINETS; DINING CHAIRS; DRESSER; OFFICE TABLES; SWIVEL CHAIRS; PEDESTAL DRAWERS; FILING CABINETS; COMPUTER TABLES; SALA SET; DINING SET; BED WITH MATTRESS; TV RACK; AIRCONS; COMPUTERS; NEW SONY ROBOKIDS; VCD PLAYERS; COMPONENTS; SPEAKERS; DESK FANS; UPHOLSTERY MATERIALS; LADIES' DRESS; FIRE EXTINGUISHERS; VACUUM CLEANER; DRYER; WASHING MACHINE; HARDWARES; GLASSWARES; KITCHENWARES; ASSTD. TOYS; AND MANY MORE...
*** REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF P 5,000 UPON REGISTRATION ***
OVER 900 LOTS TO BID
CALL MANILA TEL.: 721-3233 / 723-3277 / 299-8333 / 299-8318
BULACAN TEL.:(044) 676-3333 / (044) 676-1111
We Buy or Accept Consignment

IARFC
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS
Presents:
Create MASSIVE WEALTH through FINANCIAL PLANNING!
LEARN HOW!

1st Personal Financial Planning Seminar

Friday, March 11, 2005, 9am to 4pm, Holiday Inn Galleria, Ortigas Center

Panel Speakers:
Mr. Edwin Morrow, CLU, ChFC, CFP, RFC
Chairman & CEO IARFC
Dr. Jeffrey Chiew, DBA, CLU, ChFC, CFP, RFC
IARFC, Asia Regional Chair – "Financial Planning Guru"
Mr. Efren Ll. Cruz
Author "Pinoy's Guide to Financial Planning"
Mr. Ador Abrogena
SVP–BDO Trust Banking Group
Atty. Vic C. Mamalateo Consultant - PNA & **Ms. Marivic C. Espano** Head-Tax Division PNA

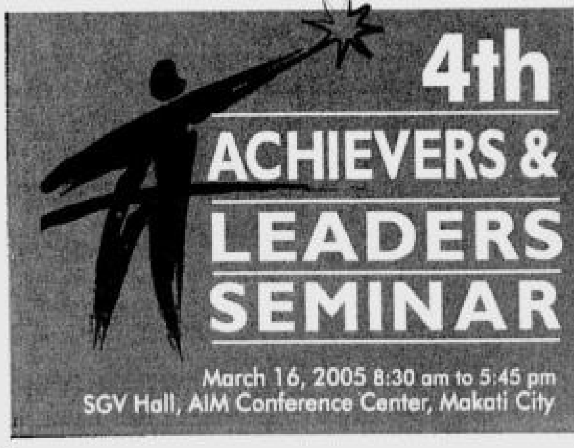
This seminar focuses on how to accumulate wealth and achieve financial freedom through Personal Financial Planning. It teaches you among others, wealth management, tax planning and wealth preservation through Trust and Wills.

If you are a Financial Planner, Insurance or Mutual Fund Agent, Real Estate Broker, Bank or Company Executive/Employee, Student, a Businessman or Entrepreneur...
THIS SEMINAR IS FOR YOU!
Tickets : P 1,800.00 plus 10% VAT (regular rate) / P 1,500.00 plus 10% VAT (Early bird 2/28/05)
Seminar fee includes Lunch, Snack, Seminar Materials

Call us for group rates.... HURRY! Seats are Limited! Look for Jonathan or Roy..
Booking Hotline: (632) 751-6688 or SMS: 0917-8992630
Email: iarfcphils@pldtdsl.net Website: www.iarfcasia.org / www.iarfc.org

Organized by:
IARFC Phils., Inc.
Sponsored by: BDO BANCO DE ORO
RFC REGISTERED FINANCIAL CONSULTANT
9F, Rufino Plaza Bldg., 6784 Ayala Ave., Makati City: Tels.751-6688 / Fax: 7516328

THE HIGHLY-ANTICIPATED SEQUEL TO THE SOLD OUT 3RD ACHIEVERS AND LEADERS SEMINAR
INQUIRER Executive Seminar Series
Proudly Presents
Francis Kong's



March 16, 2005 8:30 am to 5:45 pm
SGV Hall, AIM Conference Center, Makati City

Featuring:
management consultant
newly-appointed national coach for basketball; PBA champion coach; President,
Teaching Competitiveness to have a planet

Francis Kong, best-selling author of "Only the Real Matters" and 10 other books; program host, Business Matters; and sought-after Motivational Speaker

Discover what it takes to be an excellent leader

4th Achievers & Leaders Seminar
The Elements of Excellence
Draw inspiration. Motivate your team to start the New Year right.

7 sessions that will change you and your team's lives
- Discover what it takes to be an EXCELLENT LEADER
- Learn how to focus and do more in less time
- Learn how to cultivate culture of teamwork in your organization
- Learn the ropes of building and managing a brilliant team of achievers AND MORE!

Reserve now and save P 500 if you pay on or before March 4, 2005!
- Early bird rate: P 6,577 + 10% vat
- Regular rate: P7,077 + 10% vat
- Walk-In/On-Site Rate is P7,977+10% VAT
- Full Time Student/Faculty rate: P 2,977 (Limited to first 12. Valid ID required)

Call us for special group rates.

Conference fees include seminar participation, materials, lunch, snacks and certificate

For reservations or to get a copy of the seminar outline,
call Salt & Light Ventures, Inc.
at 830-2191, 813-2732/45/03 Text us at 0919-314 5412
and ask for Jenny or
e-mail us at slvguru@pldtDSL.net

Rave Reviews for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Achievers and Leaders Seminar:

"We loved it! When is the next one so I can send my entire team? - Stephen Miso, Microsoft

"Best seminar I have ever attended!" - Pedro Lim, Prulife, U.K.

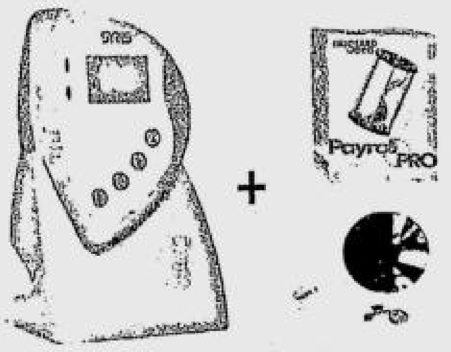
"This is one of the best training I have attended. The speakers are great!" - Emily Honquilada, Golden ABC Inc. - Penshoppe

"Very inspiring stories!" - Emmanuel R Nuque, Jr. Astra Zeneca Phils, Inc.

" The presentations were so meaningful, they capture you and glue you to your seat." - Susan P. Tayag, Bankard, Inc.

Creative Agency: BCD•PINPOINT
Official AV Provider: MAHOGANY
Official Interactive Agency:
Direct Mail Solutions Provider: Spring
Bankard
Produced and Organized by SALT & LIGHT VENTURES
Bringing out the BEST in you

TERMINATE THE TRADITIONAL PUNCH CLOCK!
Computerize with a FREE payroll system*...



SYCAPS Proximity Time Recorder with Mustard Seed Payroll Pro Software

PACKAGE CONTENTS:
- *FREE Mustard Seed Payroll Pro for 100 Employees (for more employees get a 20% discount on any Mustard Seed Payroll Pro software version)
- FREE 15pcs. Mustard Seed Payroll Pro Confidential Payslip Forms (2 ply - 1/3 letter size)
- 21 Proximity I.D. Cards & 1 Proximity Keychain (separate order for additional cards)

OUR ADVANTAGES:
- Stand-alone or PC Based
- Compute Payroll in a Flash
- Save Cost on Printing Time Cards and No More Manual Calculations
- IN/OUT Data Integrates with Mustard Seed Payroll Pro for Time & Attendance, and Payroll Computation
- Easy to Use, Plug & Play USB Port
- Display Company Name, Logo, & Employee Name on the Clock LCD

Order now for only PhP 20,000.00!

OTHER PRODUCTS:

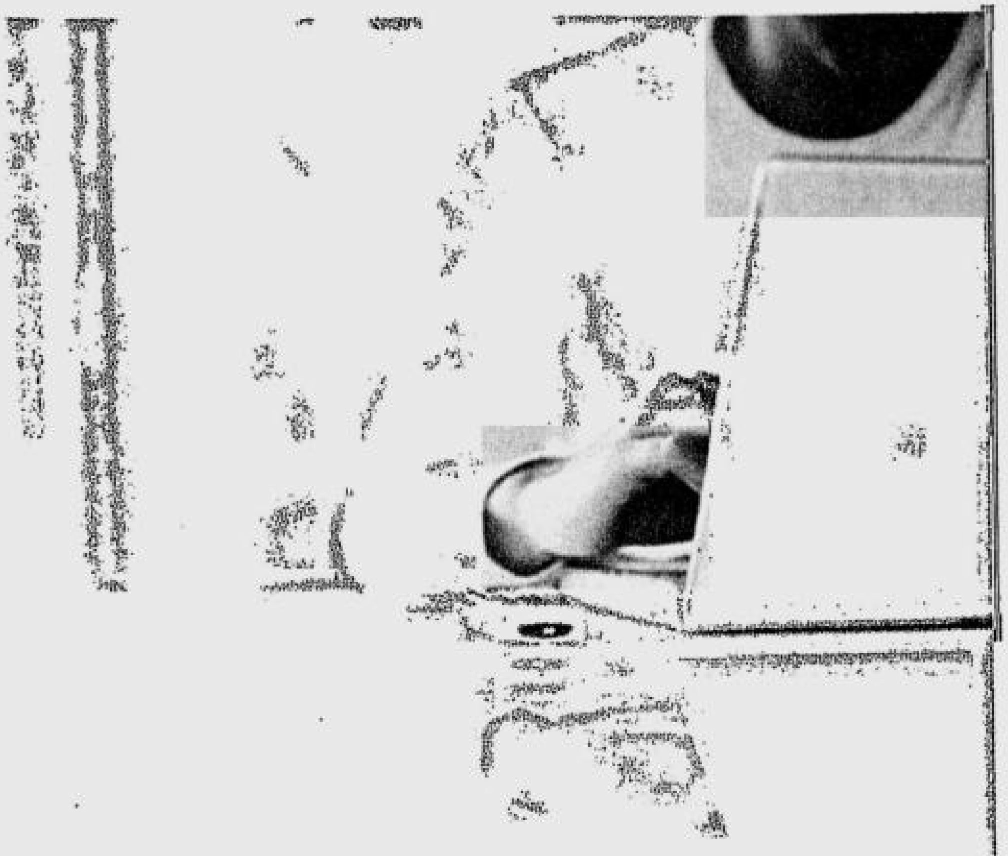
People Manager
PhP 14,000.00
201 File Software in a box

Ultimate Employer
PhP 34,000.00
Performance Review, Job Description, Employee Manual, and 201 File Software - in one

NEW PRODUCT!

for as low as P 14,500.00
Powerful accounting system for your growing business

MUSTARD Seed SYSTEMS CORPORATION
FOR SALES OR DEALEARSHIP INQUIRIES CONTACT:
1004B Summit One Office Tower, 530 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
+63 2 533-1562 | 533-3612 | 533-6040
sales@mseedsystems.com www.mseedsystems.com



Wired Not?

You're That Much Closer to Working
Freer than Ever

Is it really an information-driven world?

Information as lifeblood in running a large system was recognized early on in that once massive and efficient of monoliths, the British Empire. Administrators and Governors General from India to Africa and the Malayas realized that only a smooth flow and coordination of data ensured a source of raw riches-spices, rubber, tea and oil. It was a windfall for an empire where "the sun never set".

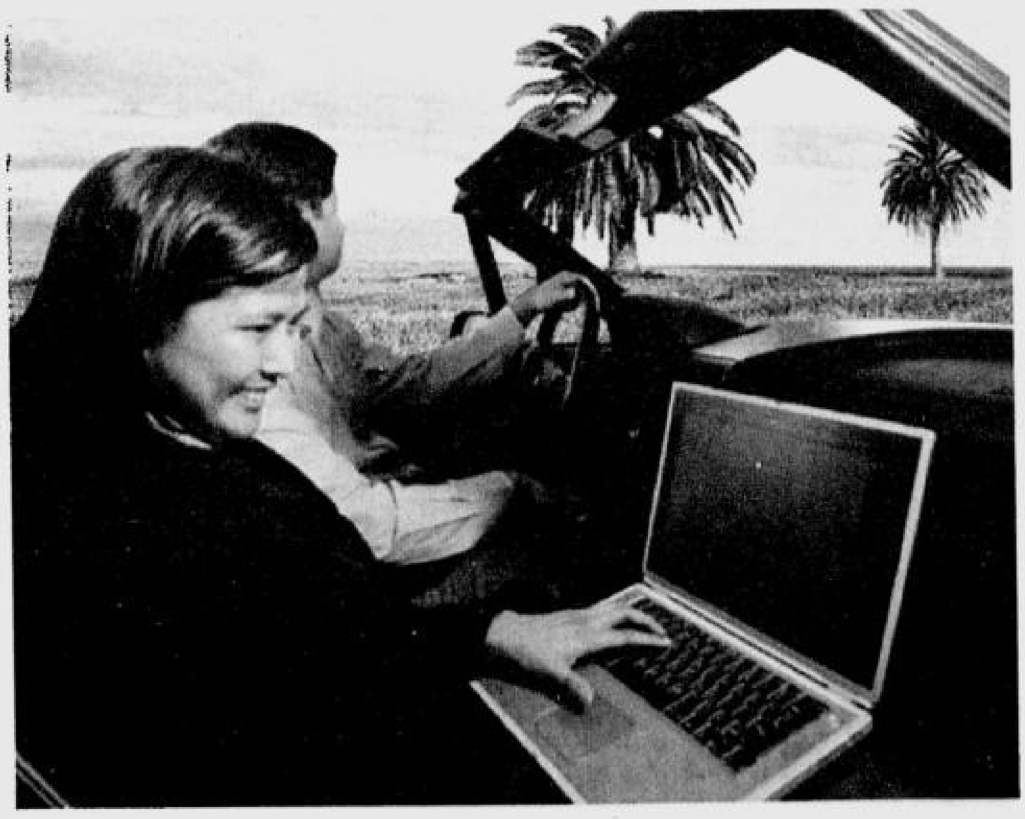
So, nothing new-- information is important in driving modern economic engines. What has evolved at dizzying speed is how this information is delivered. The telegraph and telephone were seismic shifts in financial and social interaction. In just a few generations, their wireless progeny expanded outward. "Wireless" - that's a term we increasingly hear everyday, which begs the question...

Is it really a Wireless World?

You can safely say that the delivery system for information has been growing exponentially, improving upon itself year on year, mated as it is to the progress in computing power. In our dimming memory, we marveled at the fax. Today it is approaching the status of anachronistic curios. Who needs that when we can have wireless email with all the heavy attachments - Excel sheets, PowerPoint? Or wireless broadband Internet?

With the advent of the wireless package in PLDT WeRoam, executives and their staff will be asking a more sensible question, one that affects all of us: how has wireless broadband affected how we work or even where we work? If you take the testimonials of some companies testing PLDT WeRoam, that change has gone beyond the phenomenal and into the miraculous.

When one company's trial of PLDT WeRoam ended, Doris (not her real name; anonymity needed just for now, trust us) was a vision of destitution. This was the day they handed in their wireless kits including a CD loader and PC Aircard which plugged into her laptop, effectively gave her a "Twenty Four-Seven" wireless broadband hookup into her LAN as well as the internet. "You can say I've been having an affair with my laptop," she says, "while using it, all my PO's were encoded at once and there was instant feedback."



"All in all, PLDT WeRoam increased our customer 'face-time' and it decreased idle time wasted in traffic, waiting, and all other non-value activities," added Richard, her boss, dapper and with a winning collegiality, the quintessential sales and distribution man. "Our processes are systems-based. PLDT WeRoam eliminated the time spent coming back to the office or looking for an internet connection on the road for coordination."

"I am NOT a techhie," smiles another Account Manager, Marcia, "but if this system can eliminate waiting long hours and make them productive instead then I'm all for it." She joins her friend in their despair of letting go of the kits, but it seems that will be temporary. "We've got definite plans to use PLDT WeRoam," says Richard as his colleagues coo and light up again. He'd been saving the best news for last. It seems it will be a wireless world after all, for winners, that is.

■ **Walter Ray Choi**

CIBELES INSURANCE CORPORATION
SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
As of December 31, 2002

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	P	194,509,524.15
Stocks		13,340,293.20
Real Estate		110,345,362.34
Security Fund		13,671.00
Other Investments		11,690,000.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks		294,552,623.61
Premiums Receivable		4,053,459.04
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies		2,251,923.63
Premiums Reserve Withheld by Ceding Companies		791,316.80
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses		99,245,458.88
Accrued Investment Income		3,327,365.23
EDP Equipment		390,076.87
Total Admitted Assets		**P 734,511,074.75**

LIABILITIES

Losses & Claims Payable	P	147,822,646.52
Loss Adjustment Expense Payable		283,756.59
Reserve for Unearned Premiums		39,494,661.62
Catastrophe Loss Reserve		339,169.47
Premiums Due to Reinsurers		31,768,291.36
Premiums Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers		14,164,877.33
Accrued Expenses		551,111.42
Taxes Payable		32,221,260.43
Commissions Payable		1,627,076.84
Accounts Payable		845,004.06
Other Liabilities		44,838,045.50
Total Liabilities		**P 313,955,901.14**

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid-up	P 200,000,000.00	
Contributed Surplus	100,000.00	
Contingency Surplus	594,941.67	
Fluctuation Reserve – Foreign Exchange	4,542,554.53	
Revaluation Reserve – Real Estate	42,957,750.00	
Retained Earnings	172,359,927.41	
Total Stockholders' Equity		**P 420,555,173.61**
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		**P 734,511,074.75**

(This synopsis prepared from the 2002 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended.)

SM Investments' IPO approved

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) has approved the maiden public offering of SM Investments Corp. of mall magnate Henry Sy Sr.

The SEC said SMIC aimed to raise between P12.94 billion to P31.5 billion from the Initial Public Offering (IPO).

After deducting underwriting fees, commissions and other expenses, net proceeds are expected to reach between P11.74 billion and P29.56 billion.

SMIC will use the bulk of the proceeds or between P8.74 billion and P20.10 billion for projects related to property development, tourism and leisure. Part of the proceeds, amounting to P3 billion to P9.5 billion (depending on the final size of the offer), will be used to pay loans and liabilities.

The offer price will be at least P230 a share. The total shares to be offered were estimated at between 75 million to 140 million shares.

Of these, the primary shares will represent between 56.25 million and 105 million shares. Secondary shares will be between 18.75 million and 35 million.

In a preliminary prospectus filed with the SEC, SMIC said it would offer 15-30 percent of its expanded number of outstanding shares.

With a minimum offer of 15 percent of the capital base, SMIC may offer 75 million in new shares. The shares are being proposed for sale to the domestic market and qualified institutional buyers in the United States.

SMIC is tapping Macquarie Securities (Asia) Pte. Ltd. as global coordinator for the international offering and BDO Capital & Investment Corp. for the domestic offering.

The domestic offering is set for March 8 to March 16. SMIC has interests in commercial centers through mall developer SM Prime Holdings Inc., retail, wholesale and merchandising through department store operations; financial services and banking through Banco de Oro Universal Bank, and real estate development and tourism.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

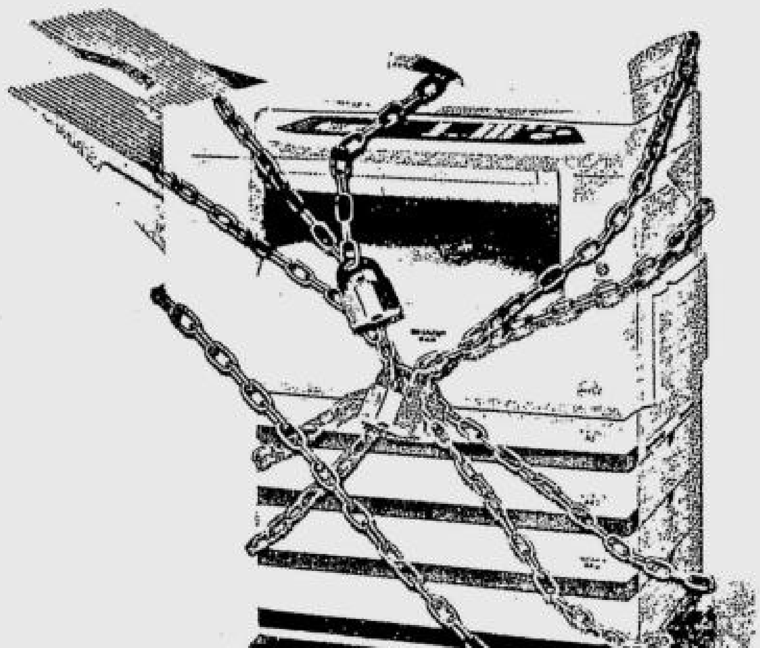
(As of February 22, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	99,000
Banco de Oro Univ Bank	28.5	28.5	27	28.5	525,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56	54	54	945,100
China Banking Corp.	650	660	650	660	780
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48	47.5	47.5	20,300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.92	0.93	0.78	0.81	15,500,000
International Exch. Bank	19	19	18.5	18.75	64,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38.5	39	37	38	2,290,900
Philippine National Bank	32	32	31	31	55,600
Phil. Savings Bank	30	37	30	37	300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15	15	15	15	22,000
Security Bank Corp.	32.5	32.5	32	32	42,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	28	28	90,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	150,000
First Abacus Financial	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	260,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	265	265	265	265	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2520	2520	2520	2520	1,080
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.08	2.08	115,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	140	142	140	140	600
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17.5	17	17.25	41,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.54	1.58	1.46	1.52	13,205,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	910	920	910	920	31,290
Ipeople Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.55	166,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.06	0.0625	0.055	0.055	12,200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.065	0.07	0.055	0.06	327,200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	110,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	218,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.45	3.55	3.45	3.5	9,147,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1360	1370	1360	1360	77,180
Ivantage Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.73	0.74	4,550,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.013	0.014	1,173,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.25	17.75	17.25	17.5	202,800
Manila Electric Co. B	26.5	26.5	25.5	25.5	903,500
Petron Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.75	1,732,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.6	1.6	1.54	1.54	260,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.84	1.84	766,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	103,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	453,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.58	0.62	0.58	0.6	1,100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.48	0.54	900,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4	4	3.8	3.8	4,478,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	226,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.76	1.7	1.76	8,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.9	326,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	37	37	36	36	61,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28	28.5	28	28	625,900
RFM Corp.	0.95	0.97	0.88	0.94	370,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	57.5	57	57	153,200
San Miguel Corp. B	79.5	80	79.5	80	11,700
Universal Robina Corp.	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	21,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	1,050,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	11	11	11	11	100
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.011	0.012	0.0095	0.01	386,600,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.012	0.012	0.01	0.01	111,300,000
Ayala Corp.	7.8	7.8	7.2	7.3	11,655,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.65	0.68	0.57	0.57	1,530,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.5	4.5	4.35	4.35	636,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	16,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.046	0.049	0.039	0.039	103,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	40,000
APC Group Inc.	0.49	0.51	0.43	0.44	12,150,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	36,000,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	30,000
Boulevard Holdings, Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	1,300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.3	1.42	1.26	1.3	115,105,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.9	130,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	3,340,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,850,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.6	0.6	0.55	0.55	2,110,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.15	4.25	4	4	2,638,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.055	7,200,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	10,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	9.3	9.8	9.3	9.5	2,868,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	50	53.5	50	52.5	1,636,200
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	250,000
Global Equities, Inc.	0.11	0.115	0.1	0.1	18,150,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.74	1.74	475,000
Ionics Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.7	1.7	380,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	1,058,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.1	2.16	227,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.66	3,502,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	310,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.36	0.36	510,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.61	0.63	0.54	0.56	142,460,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.42	0.46	0.36	0.38	9,960,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.26	1.26	84,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.35	0.35	1,190,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	110,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.61	0.62	0.58	0.58	510,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	80,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	260,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.15	1,000,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	4,640,000
Waterfront Phils., Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.31	450,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.2	1.44	1.2	1.3	125,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	126,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.96	2,110,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.11	0.11	5,180,000
Pryce Corp.	0.3	0.35	0.3	0.35	30,860,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.38	1.4	28,223,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.32	1.16	1.16	8,796,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.1	1.26	1.1	1.24	35,214,000
Manila Jockey Club	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6	41,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	3,280,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	17	17.25	17	17	242,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	28,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.2	9.2	8.7	8.7	10,395,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.4	17,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.89	920,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.3	0.31	21,360,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.41	0.33	0.36	99,640,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.5	0.51	42,990,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.72	1.74	1.66	1.68	4,010,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	4,640,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	1,600,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.22	0.22	3,930,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.2	0.21	0.195	0.195	1,150,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	18,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.3	4,590,000
SM Development Corp.	1.8	1.96	1.8	1.88	663,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.4	8.1	8.2	9,848,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.18	1.18	1.12	1.12	145,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.3	1.3	1.18	1.18	280,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	68,200,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.1	7.2	6.8	6.8	717,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.9	3.9	3.85	3.85	25,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	22,170,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.42	0.42	0.38	0.38	36,340,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	133,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.029	0.027	0.027	231,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.009	0.009	0.0075	0.008	2,161,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.2	1.2	1.12	1.12	1,221,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.44	1.5	1.34	1.34	7,561,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	44	46	44	45	1,343,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.34	0.35	0.3	0.35	390,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.016	0.014	0.014	76,000,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	22,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.007	0.006	0.006	58,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	88,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	18,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	240,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	420,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.013	0.013	102,100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.6	60,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.195	0.21	0.175	0.18	39,210,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	90,000

CURRENCIES

February 22, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.765638	1.000000	54.7470
Japan	Yen	0.007251	0.009471	0.5185
United Kingdom	Pound	1.450808	1.894900	103.7401
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.098164	0.128212	7.0192
Switzerland	Franc	0.647474	0.845666	46.2977
Canada	Dollar	0.621762	0.812084	44.4592
Singapore	Dollar	0.467280	0.610314	33.4129
Australia	Dollar	0.602723	0.787216	43.0977
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.030924	2.652590	145.2213
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.204170	0.266667	14.5992
Brunei	Dollar	0.465859	0.608458	33.3113
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000108	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.019868	0.025950	1.4207
UAE	Dirham	0.208456	0.272264	14.9056
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.307800	71.5981
Argentina	Peso	0.263559	0.344234	18.8458
Brazil	Real	0.298844	0.390320	21.3688
Denmark,	Kroner	0.134518	0.175694	9.6187
India	Rupee	0.017509	0.022868	1.2520
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.201511	0.263193	14.4090
Mexico	New Peso	0.069154	0.090322	4.9449
New Zealand	Dollar	0.553087	0.722387	39.5485
Norway	Kroner	0.120702	0.157649	8.6308
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012898	0.016846	0.9223
South Africa	Rand	0.128958	0.168432	9.2211
Korea	Won	0.000748	0.000977	0.0535
Sweden	Kroner	0.109968	0.143629	7.8633
Syria	Pound	0.014749	0.019264	1.0546
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024337	0.031786	1.7402
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000400	0.000522	0.0286

SHARP
iMAGER
The Only Digital Copier You Need.

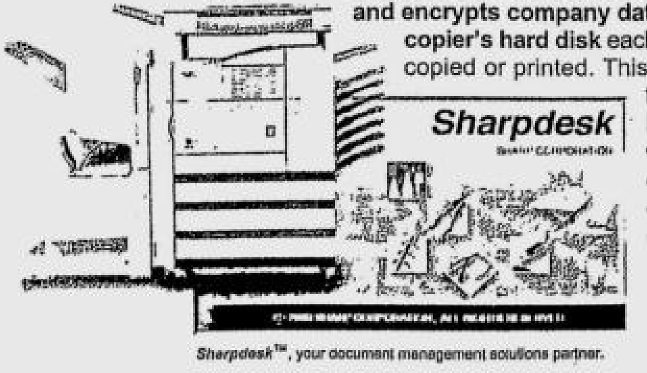


Growing risks?

As your business grows, so do the risks involved.
Keep your company secrets safe with the Sharp Data Security Kit (DSK). The first to receive a Common Criteria validation worldwide, the **Sharp DSK erases and encrypts company data that is automatically stored in your copier's hard disk** each and every time a document is scanned, copied or printed. This way you can prevent vital information from getting into the wrong hands. Further protect your growing business with ***Sharpdesk***™, a revolutionary document management system that drastically streamlines workflow ensuring optimum productivity and helping you sustain growth.

Sharp, best for your business.

DATA SECURITY KIT



Sharpdesk™, your document management solutions partner.

C-Copy Manila
Tel: 245-9110; 245-9112; 245-9114; 245-4640 to 41
Fax. 245-9100

C-Copy Ortigas
Tels: 631-8714 to 18
Fax. 631-8719

C-Copy Alabang
Tels: 775-0614 to 17
Fax: 775-0613

C-Copy Calamba
Tels: (049) 545-9042 to 44
Fax: (049) 545-9045

C-Copy Makati
Tels: 521-2574

C-Copy Quezon City
Tel: 372-0176 to 79
Fax: 372-0174

C-Copy Cebu
Tel: (032) 346-2965; (032) 346-3976; (032) 346-4565 (032) 420-5806

C Copy CORPORATION
better closer working harder

5837 Zobel Roxas Street, Palanan, Makati City
Call Center: 525-9911 loc. 104/105

Copier Sales Fax: 525-9860
Service, Parts & Genuine Consumables
Fax: 525-9870

C-xclusive and authorized Master Distributor of SHARP genuine consumables & original parts.

Local firm bags oil exploration deal

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy yesterday signed a petroleum service contract with all-Filipino exploration firm Aragorn Power and Energy Corp. (Apec) for oil and gas exploration in the Cagayan Valley Basin.

"A wholly owned Filipino exploration company investing in the upstream petroleum industry demonstrates the very positive outlook and upbeat sentiment in the exploration business as already shown by foreign developers," Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said in a statement yesterday.

Service Contract 48 covers 748,000 hectares of the Cagayan Valley Basin, which is considered a high-potential area, according to previous studies.

The area covered by the contract is located near the San Antonio Gas Field, which the state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) operates.

The San Antonio gas field produces some 1 million cubic feet of gas a day, enough to fuel a 3-megawatt power plant.

Under SC 48, which spans a period of seven years for exploration, Apec will be investing around $6 million.

The amount will cover the geological and geophysical studies as well as the drilling of one well during the first two years of exploration and four more wells in the second and third phases of exploration.

"We believe that underneath this land is an immense and vast petroleum resource that only needs to be discovered and developed. Apec signs this (service contract) as a partner of government in its continuing search for energy resources," Apec chair Willy Ocier said.

Perez expressed optimism that "SC 48 will yield great potential for oil and gas deposit to further advance the country's march toward energy independence," given the very promising data gathered from previous studies on the Cagayan Valley Basin.

Energy Undersecretary Guillermo Balce added that even small production rates of 300 barrels a day could prove profitable. The promise of good oil and gas yield from the area covered by SC 48 could also prove to be a good investment on the part of Apec.

AIM-less charges

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE FORMER president of the Asian Institute of Management, Felipe Alfonso, has been cleared of estafa and bouncing checks charges filed against him by a luxury car dealer who had been paid with Alfonso's bad checks.

"No sales invoice, receipt, certificate of registration, written acknowledgement, or any document whatsoever ... was ever presented" to prove that Alfonso had indeed purchased or received three luxury vehicles from the complaining car dealer, said Assistant Quezon City Prosecutor Arthur Malabaguio. He said that the AIM official was a victim of an "evil ploy."

Alfonso had admitted issuing four blank but pre-signed checks, which were later used to acquire a Lamborghini Murcielago, a BMW 645 Ci and a BMW X3 for P32.5 million. Except for the first check, with a face value of P4 million, the rest of the checks bounced.

Alfonso, who resigned his directorship of Metrobank in charge of the risk management committee after the scandal became public, said he issued the checks in August 2004 to the alleged scam artist, auto parts dealer Mark Anthony Bitanga of Corinthian Gardens, to settle a land dispute in Batangas, not to buy any luxury vehicle.

To protect himself, Alfonso asked Bitanga to sign a sheet of paper saying that he would limit the amount to a maximum of P150,000 per check.

Despite the P150,000 ceiling, Alfonso agreed to make good the P4-million check after Bitanga personally gave him P400,000 in cash, and was given the ruse by Bitanga that P3.6 million had been deposited in Alfonso's account.

The P4-million check was supposed to have gone to pay certain commitments with a "Judge Aurelio Buenaventura" of Lipa City. Instead, the money went to pay for the X3.

After the first check was made good, the complaining car dealer, Rolando Evangelista, incidentally, a student of Alfonso at AIM, released the two other luxury cars without waiting for the three other Alfonso checks to clear.

The Lamborghini and the 645 Ci were later found in the custody of another Quezon City car dealer, Rolando Esguerra, who claimed that Bitanga had pawned the two cars to him, allegedly for P7 million.

The X3, on the other hand, was seen being used by Bitanga.

To make a long story short, all the three hot cars have finally been returned to the real owner, PriceSmart chair William Go, but not after the latter ponied up "a few millions" to retrieve them.

According to the grapevine, Go had hoped he could recover his expenses from Alfonso and Bitanga.

But, with the estafa complaint against Alfonso now having been dismissed, it is up to "the players in what (Cocktales) had described as 'the nebulous secondary market' of luxury cars to settle the matter amongst them," said Alfonso's lawyer, Reynaldo Geronimo.

After the scandal was publicized, Bitanga, who alone will now stand trial for estafa, closed down his car parts dealership in the Fort, leaving, according to Villanueva (who also happens to be his landlord), several months of rent in arrears.

Money-go-round

- DEVELOPER VV Soliven has been rebuked and fined by the Supreme Court for double-selling a residential lot in his Pasig Green Park subdivision way back in the 1980s. The original buyer, unfortunately, has since died.
- No less than the executive vice president of Porsche AG, Hans Riedel, is flying in for tomorrow's inauguration of the Porsche showroom on Edsa, and the introduction of the new Boxster and Boxster S models.

Heard through the grapevine

JOSE Isidro Camacho has yet to begin clocking in for Credit Suisse First Boston but it seems the former finance secretary has already secured his yearend bonus.

How?

Camacho has been appointed by Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes to advise him on his plan to securitize the multibillion-peso windfall from the Malampaya natural gas reserves.

If Camacho could swing that deal in CSFB's favor, then his one-year hibernation would be well worth it.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Listing of new mine firms pushed

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE CHAMBER OF MINES of the Philippines is urging the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) to adopt an international mining standard that may allow companies with mining exploration activities to list in the equities market.

CMP president Benjamin Philip Romualdez told reporters late Monday after a briefing on the mining industry that in Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, and South Africa, the capital markets allow the listing of mining companies prior to their commercial operation.

"Here you have three years of operating profit, consecutive, otherwise you cannot list," he said.

But he was quick to say that Philippine listing standards should not be relaxed, but that the PSE should study international standards for mining investments under what is called a JORC (Joint Ore Reserves Committee) code adopted by many countries.

He explained that in countries like Canada and Australia, the JORC code is used as a stamp of certification for mining firms' claims and projects.

In the United States and South Africa, the JORC code is used as an international reporting standard to provide a guideline for reporting of exploration results, mineral reserves and ore reserves.

"This certifies for the stock exchange that the company has in fact the mineralization it claims and has mining permits," he said.

This would give the opportunity for mining firms to tap the equities market even if they did not have a track record of operations.

"The PSE said they will look at it. What is important is we have to be sure that the training and the certification of the geologists take place and can be regulated by the PSE, which will in turn certify or co-certify (their results)," Romualdez said.

Romualdez also said the CMP was busy with roadshows and conferences this year in Canada (March), Singapore (no schedule cited), and Australia (in May) to showcase mining projects and potential ones in the country.

He said about 37 mining exploration activities were awaiting fresh funding from investors.

Treasury bond . . .

From page B1

petite, however, Lasala said the Treasury was not inclined to open a tap facility for the 10-year debt paper. "There is not much need yet (for more cash). Besides, it adds to the deficit every time you do that, so we have to be very careful," she explained.

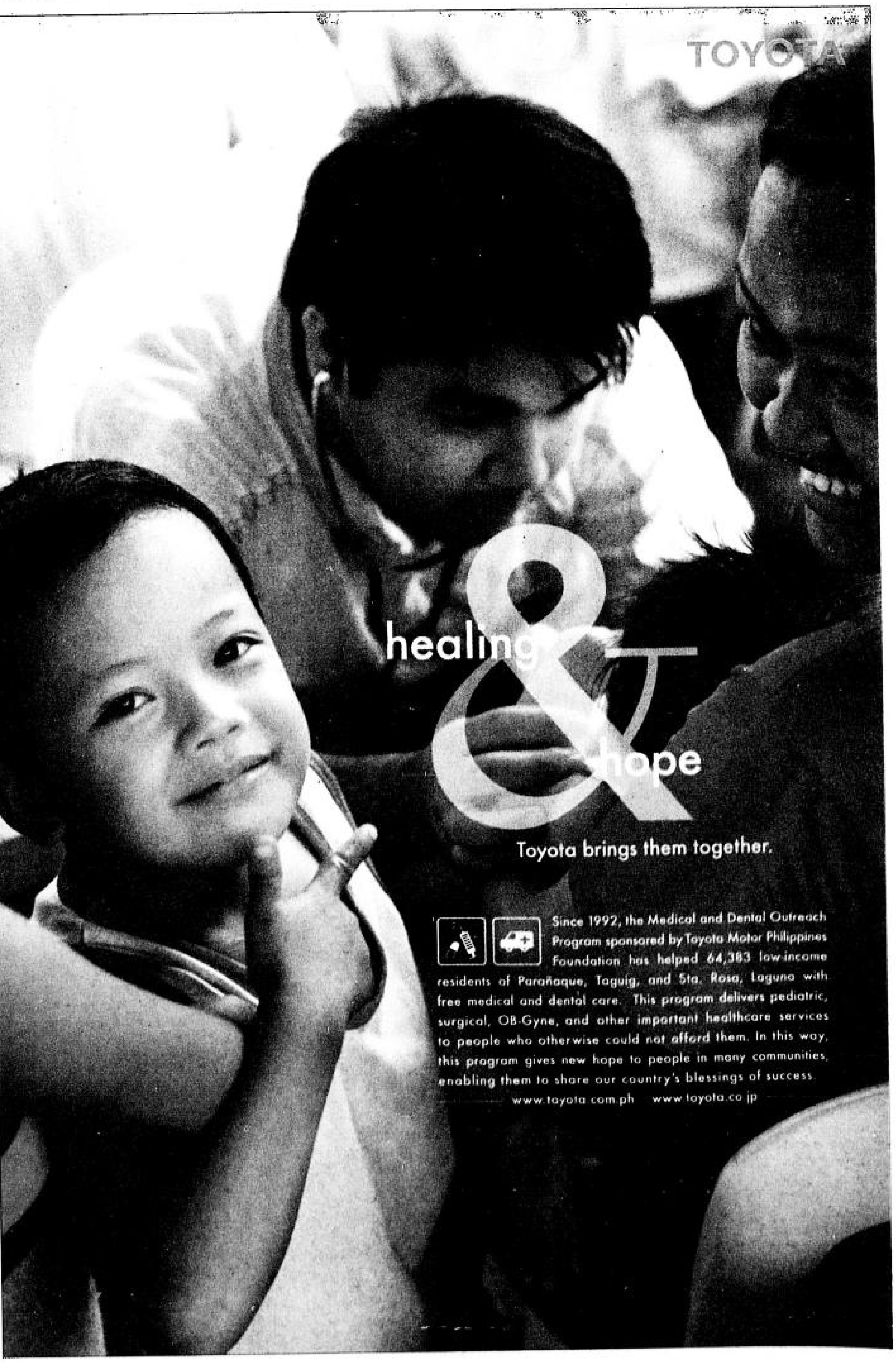
A tap facility is where those who lost in the bidding for a particular government security can still avail themselves of the debt instrument over the counter, but at a lower yield.

She said the Treasury expected the yields of government securities to continue their declining trend at least until the end of the first quarter. Lasala said interest rates for long-term government securities experienced some correction in the secondary market, but added that these immediately recovered.

Lasala said this was similar to the movement of the peso, which was having some correction, but was still strong at a level below 55 to a dollar.

PSBank Prime TIME DEPOSIT
✓ 8.5% interest p.a. - GUARANTEED
✓ No withholding tax
✓ Only P50,000 minimum deposit
✓ 5 - year Time Deposit
✓ Monthly crediting of interest
Visit any of our 139 PSBank branches nationwide.
Member of the PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00
Quoted rate is for a limited time only and is subject to change without prior notice.

Enjoy the Convenience of Living Beside the Mall
Two Adriatico PLACE
38-Storey Residential Condominium
Adriatico corner Pedro Gil Street
Ermita, Manila
Beside Robinsons Place Manila Mall
LIBRARY/2-BR UNITS AVAILABLE
636-0888
0922-8380888
or visit our website at
www.RobinsonsProperties.com.ph
or email at
properties@rlc.com.ph
ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION
Model Units Ready for Viewing
3rd Level, Parking Area, Padre Faura Wing
Robinsons Place Manila Mall



Since 1992, the Medical and Dental Outreach Program sponsored by Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation has helped 64,383 low-income residents of Parañaque, Taguig, and Sta. Rosa, Laguna with free medical and dental care. This program delivers pediatric, surgical, OB-Gyne, and other important healthcare services to people who otherwise could not afford them. In this way, this program gives new hope to people in many communities, enabling them to share our country's blessings of success.
www.toyota.com.ph www.toyota.co.jp

Thailand, RP central banks in 4th round of talks

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANK of Thailand and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas are looking at fostering closer cooperation between the two institutions in the aftermath of the 1997 Asian currency turmoil.

"There is so much that the two countries could learn from each other," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

Top officials of the Bank of Thailand are in town for the fourth round of bilateral discussions between the two central banks, which started in Bangkok in December 2001.

"Our discussions will be quite extensive, comparing our experience in 2004 as regards to economic and financial performance and challenges for 2005 and 2006, asset prices and transmission of monetary policy," Buenaventura said.

The BSP chief said the discussions would facilitate further information-sharing so that the monetary authorities could better respond to new challenges.

Thailand, for instance, implemented its inflation-targeting monetary policy two years ahead of the Philippines.

The inflation-targeting approach means that any monetary tightening is determined by how inflation rates react to the amount of money circulating in the system.

The two-day bilateral discussions with the Bank of Thailand, led by its chief Pridiyathorn Devakula, kicked off yesterday in Bohol.

The results of the bilateral talks will be disclosed tomorrow, Buenaventura said.

The first bilateral meeting initiated by the Bank of Thailand delved on the recent global economic slowdown, consolidated supervision and the implementation of the new Basel capital accord, exchange rate policy and risk management in the implementation of monetary policy.

Successive meetings centered on experiences in areas such as inflation-targeting, risk-based supervision and securitization of non-performing assets of financial institutions.

The Bank of Thailand likewise conducted bilateral talks with the Bank of Japan.

The two monetary institutions reached their second bilateral arrangement under the Chiang Mai initiative of the Asean plus 3.

This enables both countries to swap their local currencies—either Thai baht or Japanese yen—for about $3 billion, depending on the need for short-term cash.

It is not known whether the bilateral discussions with the Philippines will result in a similar currency arrangement.

The Chiang Mai Initiative was formalized at the Asean+3 Finance Ministers' Meeting in May 2000 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

It is aimed at preventing a repeat of the Asian Currency Crisis in 1997-98.

It also aims to create a "network of bilateral swap arrangements", through which short-term liquidity will be provided to support participating Asean+3 countries in need.

The network of bilateral swap arrangements involves China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The Chiang Mai Initiative is now under review at the Asean+3 Finance Ministers Process with a view to enhancing its effectiveness of self-help mechanism among members.

Once the review is completed, the second bilateral swap arrangement will be revised in accordance with the agreement.

PSE director questions Colayco nomination

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A MEMBER of the Philippine Stock Exchange board has questioned the nomination of Rufo Colayco, former president of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, as director.

PSE director Francisco Villaroman said in a letter to the PSE nominations and elections committee that Colayco was not even a member of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, which endorsed his nomination.

Colayco, on the other hand, told the INQUIRER that he has accepted his nomination and believes that he can make a contribution to the stock market.

"I was nominated and am honored that Finex nominated me," he said.

He added that even if he was not a member of Finex, the association may have chosen to back him because it believes that he can contribute to the development of the capital markets.

Colayco has been involved with the Shangri-La Group and was senior partner in SGV & Co. for 16 years.

The PSE is set to elect its new board on March 19.

Of its 15-man board, eight will come from the ranks of non-brokers.

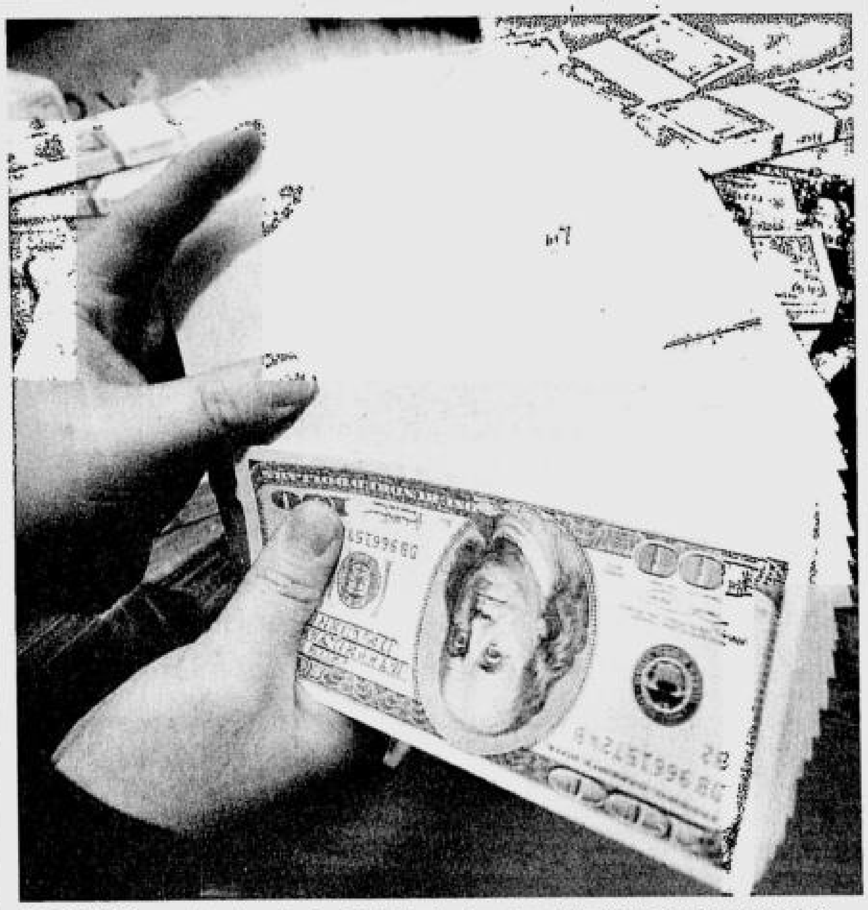
One of these non-brokers sits as president of the PSE, three are independent directors and four represent the interest of issuers, investors, and other market participants not associated with any broker-dealer or PSE stockholders over the last two years.

The remaining seven members of the board of directors will be brokers proportionately representing the stockholders in terms of volume and value of trade as well as paid-up capital.

Brokers that handle trades worth at least P500 million are considered big brokers.

Over the last two years, the PSE elections have been marred by controversies over the election of non-brokers who control a majority of the board.

Thus, the election of non-brokers is crucial in the election of the PSE chairperson.



A SOUTH Korean banker checks US dollar bank notes at the Korea Exchange bank in Seoul. The US dollar hit a fresh seven-year low against the Korean won on increasing stock purchases by overseas investors. The greenback fell below the 1,010 won level. AFP

S&P to keep RP rating

CREDIT ratings agency Standard and Poor's said Tuesday it remains disappointed at the slow pace of tax reforms in the Philippines, suggesting an unlikely reverse of a ratings downgrade in January.

The agency last month lowered its credit ratings on the Philippines by one notch, citing concerns over a chronic budget deficit and delays in the government getting legislation to raise tax revenues through Congress.

In a report Tuesday, Standard and Poor's said a "qualitative shift in revenue mobilization capability remains absent" in the Philippines.

"Progress on proposed tax measures aimed at effecting such a shift [in revenue mobilization] has been disappointing. Only two of eight laws proposed by the president in June 2004 had been passed and signed into law by January 2005," it said.

"As a result, the main revenue collecting organ, the Bureau of Internal Revenue [which accounts for 70 pct of revenues] has underperformed its 2004 target by about 10 percent and only the Customs and Treasury departments have exceeded their respective targets."

SP said a proposed increase in value-added tax (VAT) to 12 percent from 10 percent recently approved by the House of Representatives could improve government's revenues.

However, the VAT hike bill still faces stiff opposition from several sectors and senators.

AFP

Japan seen set for mild growth after economy shrank in Q4

TOKYO—Economists have revised down their forecasts for Japan's economy after news that it entered a shallow recession last year, but most expect a mild recovery rather than a downturn.

A Reuters poll of 21 economists on Tuesday produced a median forecast of 1.6 percent growth in real, price-adjusted terms for the fiscal year ending in March, lower than the previous consensus estimate of 2.0 percent growth.

Government data showed last week that Japan's gross domestic product (GDP) for October-December shrank 0.1 percent from the previous quarter, weaker than market consensus forecast of a slight rise, and that it contracted for a third straight quarter.

But most economists said the world's second-largest economy would avoid a serious downturn and expected a rebound starting from January-March.

"The worst is over. The moderate recovery has already begun after October-December," said Mamoru Yamazaki, chief economist at Barclays Capital.

Economists said personal consumption, which fell late last year due to weather, natural disasters and weakness in incomes, will gradually pick up.

They also cited recent positive figures for machinery orders and progress in inventory adjustments in areas related to information technology as signs of a future boost in capital spending.

Effects of an extra budget providing funds for relief and reconstruction after a strong earthquake in northern Japan and a destructive typhoon in October will start supporting the economy from January-March, economists said.

"If you look back at Japan's economy after the bubble burst (in early 1990s), there had been an ominous sense that the economy could fall into a bottomless hole whenever it slowed down," said Mitsubishi Research Institute in a research report.

"But this time around, there is little possibility for it to slip into a serious downturn," it said.

For the fiscal year starting on April 1, the survey produced a median forecast of 1.2 percent real GDP growth.

But there were mixed views, with some economists expecting faster growth in fiscal 2005/06 than this year while others questioned the strength of the recovery.

Economists' forecasts for fiscal 2005/06 ranged from 0.3 percent growth to 2.1 percent growth.

That stemmed mainly from different views on the outlook for overseas economies and Japanese exports, whose recent slowdown has been blamed for hurting industrial output as well as the overall economy.

Some said exports would improve as overseas economies pick up pace later in 2005, but others were more cautious.

"In the short term, overseas economies remain firm ... but a slowdown in the US economy will become clearer from mid-2005," said Hiromichi Shirakawa, chief economist at UBS Securities.

Reuters

Asian shares slide as US dollar falls

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks fell on Tuesday as investors fretted over corporate earnings and a weaker dollar hurt exporters, but higher crude prices lifted shares in energy companies such as Australian oil producer Santos.

European shares were set to open higher, with a slow start expected after a holiday on Wall Street on Monday. Concerns over inflation and interest rates could weigh on US stocks.

The dollar hit a five-week low against the euro and extended losses against the yen as the US currency's break of key technical levels sparked selling.

The New Zealand dollar surged to a fresh 22-year near 73 US cents as the country's 6.5 percent official interest rate attracted investors, while the South Korean won jumped to its highest level in more than seven years, helping push Seoul's KOSPI stock index down 1.1 percent.

The weak dollar pushed gold up 0.3 percent to $428.25 an ounce.

US oil prices rose 1 percent to $48.81 a barrel, pressured by a return of cold weather in Europe and the United States. Shares in oil producer Santos rose 1.5 percent, while South Korean refiner S-Oil jumped 4.3 percent.

Japan's Nikkei index fell half a percent to 11,597.71, led by falls in chip-testing equipment maker Advantest Corp. and industrial robot maker Fanuc Ltd. after their share buyback plans failed to excite investors.

Advantest fell 2 percent and Fanuc slid 2.4 percent.

"Share buybacks used to be a very effective way to boost stock prices, but now what investors are wanting is a dividend hike," said Yasuo Yabe, director of sales at Meiwa Securities.

Shares in electronics firm Citizen Watch Co. Ltd. tumbled 3.4 percent after it cut its full-year profit outlook.

MSCI's index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan had edged down 0.06 percent by 0630 GMT, a day after it hit a seven-year high.

South Korean shares led losses in Asia, weighed down by a 1.1 percent drop in Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., the world's top maker of memory chips, and a 6.2 percent slide in Hynix Semiconductor.

Shares in some LG Group units fell after rallying the previous day on news a fund had invested $975 million in conglomerate LG Corp. and its phone and appliance unit, LG Electronics Inc.

LG Electronics dropped 2.2 percent, but LG Corp. edged up 0.2 percent.

In Taiwan, shares dropped 0.6 percent from near nine-month highs as investors locked in profits in big tech issues such as United Microelectronics Corp., down 1.5 percent.

In Hong Kong, shares fell 0.3 percent as investors awaited the outcome of a commercial land auction.

Australian shares fell 0.4 percent, dragged lower by a 5.1 percent drop in general insurer Promina Group Ltd. after it revealed a rise in its asbestos claims provisions.

Singapore's key index slid 0.7 percent, with Venture Corp. falling 1.9 percent a day after the contract electronics maker posted a 36 percent drop in quarterly net profit.

The euro was at around $1.3145 after climbing to around $1.3170, its highest level in five weeks. The dollar fell as low as 104.58 yen down a full yen from the day's high of 105.60 yen.

The Australian dollar broke the 79 US cents barrier to hit a three-month high, driven by a weak US dollar but still underperforming its neighboring New Zealand dollar and the euro.

Currency and financial markets will focus on US consumer inflation data and minutes of a Fed meeting on Wednesday for any sign of a more aggressive pace of US interest rate rises.

Some traders said the market was looking for an opportunity to sell the dollar after many were caught off guard by the US currency's rebound at the start of 2005 from a record low against the euro late last year.

After data on Friday showed core US wholesale prices jumped sharply in January, the market was bracing for any further signs of inflation accelerating more than Fed officials would like.

Reuters

Ernst & Young chair to name RP Entrepreneur of the Year

JAMES S. Turley, chair and chief executive officer of Ernst & Young Global, will award this year's Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines, under the annual program that yielded the first Filipino business leader as World Entrepreneur of the Year.

A leading advocate of entrepreneurship, Turley is impressed with the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines program and says, "This is an excellent opportunity to inspire others through the exceptional stories of Filipino entrepreneurs who have become visionaries, leaders and winners in business."

Last year, Tony Tan Caktiong, president and CEO of Jollibee Foods Corp., was named first Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines and was named World Entrepreneur of the Year in awards rites in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

This year, there are 17 finalists vying for the Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines award. Aside from the national title, there will be six category awards: Agribusiness, Woman, Small Business, Socially Responsible, Emerging Master and Master.

One among the category winners will be named the Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines and will represent the country in the 2005 World Entrepreneur of the Year in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

Launched in July 2003 by the SGV Foundation Inc. (SGVF), the Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines is part of a global recognition program of the same name developed by professional services firm Ernst & Young in the United States in 1986.

Fed rate hikes loom, experts say

WASHINGTON—The world's biggest economy is poised to "motor ahead" during 2005 and largely ride out some likely "potholes" presented by twin deficits, but fresh interest rate hikes loom on the road ahead, a panel of top US business economists said Tuesday.

US gross domestic product (GDP)—total economic output—was forecast to grow 3.6 percent in 2005, albeit at a slower pace than the 4.4 percent expansion notched up in 2004, said a National Association of Business Economists (NABE) panel.

"Our forecasters expect the economy to motor ahead at a solid pace, despite potential potholes presented by our twin deficits," said Carl Tannenbaum, chair of the NABE Outlook Survey and chief economist at LaSalle Bank in Chicago.

"While the fiscal and trade issues that face the country could have a significant impact in the long run, they do not appear to be hindering our short-term economic performance," Tannenbaum observed.

The panel of 37 top business economists expects the US budget deficit to fall to $386 billion in fiscal year 2005 compared to 2004's projected $412 billion.

On the trade front, "a further deterioration" is expected and imports are seen exceeding exports "by a record-breaking $615 billion in 2005."

Rising interest rates, geopolitical uncertainty and "corporate caution" were cited as "hindrances" that could affect the country's economic engine.

The panel expects the Federal Reserve to raise its key federal funds rate—the main rate used for inter-bank loans—to 3.5 percent by year-end 2005 from its current pegging of 2.5 percent.

The expected fresh rate hikes are seen applying a slight brake to home sales.

"Housing starts are expected to decline from 2004's sizzling 1.9 million level to a still respectable 1.8 million in 2005," the top economists predicted.

Weighing the economic positives against the negatives, the NABE economists cited an improving labor market and accommodative monetary policy and fiscal policies as boosting their outlook.

The US unemployment rate is projected to average 5.2 percent during 2005.

On the currency front, the NABE outlook called for the dollar to "stabilize" against the euro at $1.30.

Demand for the greenback is likely to remain supported by "strong demand" for US assets by overseas investors, the NABE panel added. *AFP*

GRAND OPENING TODAY!

ALL-THE-WAY TO BAGUIO

at

Ridgewood RESIDENCE

17 Julian Felipe Street, Barangay Lualhati (near The Mansion) 2600 Baguio City, Philippines Tel.: (074) 446-6295 Fax: (074) 446-7733

MESSAGES

On behalf of the Department of Tourism, I extend my warmest greetings to the Ridgewood Resources and Development Corporation on the occasion of the grand launching of its pioneer project in Baguio City, Ridgewood Residence.

Ridgewood Residence is a 51-room hotel, which exudes a polished country feel and a restful atmosphere. It weaves the amenities of urban living and the charm of the countryside that is Baguio City. This new asset in the hospitality industry will be a big boost to the country's tourism industry and enhances the image of the Philippines.

Under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, travel and tourism have been identified as major engines for socioeconomic development and sustainability. The government, in active partnership with the private sectors, media, local government units, and other national government agencies, its efforts and activities to realize its goal of 5 million tourists by 2010.

I commend the Ridgewood Resources and Development Corporation for its continuing support of sustaining the growth of tourism in the country.

Mabuhay!

Joseph 'Ace' H. Durano
Secretary of Tourism

Greetings and congratulations to the officers of the Ridgewood Resources and Development Corporation in your grand opening celebration on February 23, 2005.

Your company's role in the city's growth and development is more pronounced today, with the recognition granted to private sector initiative. You have a job well done.

But propelling growth and development in the tourism industry, more then anything sustainability.

It is therefore my fervent hope and trust that these new challenges only envigor the Ridgewood Resources and Development Corporation leadership.

With my best wishes and God bless!

Hon. Braulio D. Yaranon
City Mayor, Baguio

The dream of an entrepreneur is to tread the road less traveled, to lead the way and to become a significant part of life and of the society as a whole.

Ridgewood Residence is an entrepreneur's dream come true, sheltered in a destination whose amenities, beauty and charm are for both the whole country and the world to see - Baguio City. Together, we celebrate, experience and venerate the beauty of our land.

This year and in the years to come, Ridgewood Residence responds to the calling and welcomes the challenge of the tourism industry and the City of Baguio - to give the best to both residents and tourists at all times.

As we have been welcomed in the tourism industry and in the City of Baguio, we welcome you to Ridgewood Residence.

Rodolfo Q. Kalalang
Chairman of the Board,
Ridgewood Resources
and Development Corporation

Ridgewood Residence opens in Baguio today

At the outskirts of the center of Baguio City, just a short distance from the popular Wright Park and The Mansion, Ridgewood Resources and Development Corporation opens Ridgewood Residence today.

A country-style hotel/apartelle, Ridgewood Residence is synonymous to quiet, serenity, style and comfort - definitely the best choice for any purpose of stay - be it for a couple's honeymoon, family or group of friends' long weekend vacations, or for any company functions like conventions, seminars, or retreats.

Dubbed as the summer capital of the country for its cool and crisp climate, complemented by its rich variety of cultural, historical and scenic attractions, Baguio remains in the top list for the places to be both for foreign and local tourists in the country. To provide hundreds of visitors that come in the city in any time of the year, Ridgewood Residence is open to offer the best with its world-class accommodations manned with professional management style by its friendly and efficient staff.

Ridgewood Residence has a premium country touch that makes it homey. A walk-in landscaped rose garden with cascading waterfalls is just one of the first attractions that will definitely give one who wants to get away from dust, heat and bustle from the crowded metropolitan a warm welcome.

Fifty-one spacious hotel and apartelle type room accommodations with kitchen facilities, orthopedic mattresses, cable TV, telephone system with IDD and NDD services, continuous hot and cold water supply and a mini-bar make Ridgewood Residence a convenient place to be in. To ensure safety, it is also equipped with smoke detector and fire alarm system.

Guaranteed for a satisfying stay, visitors can wake up in the morning to the sweet scent of pine and flowers and head on right for the day!

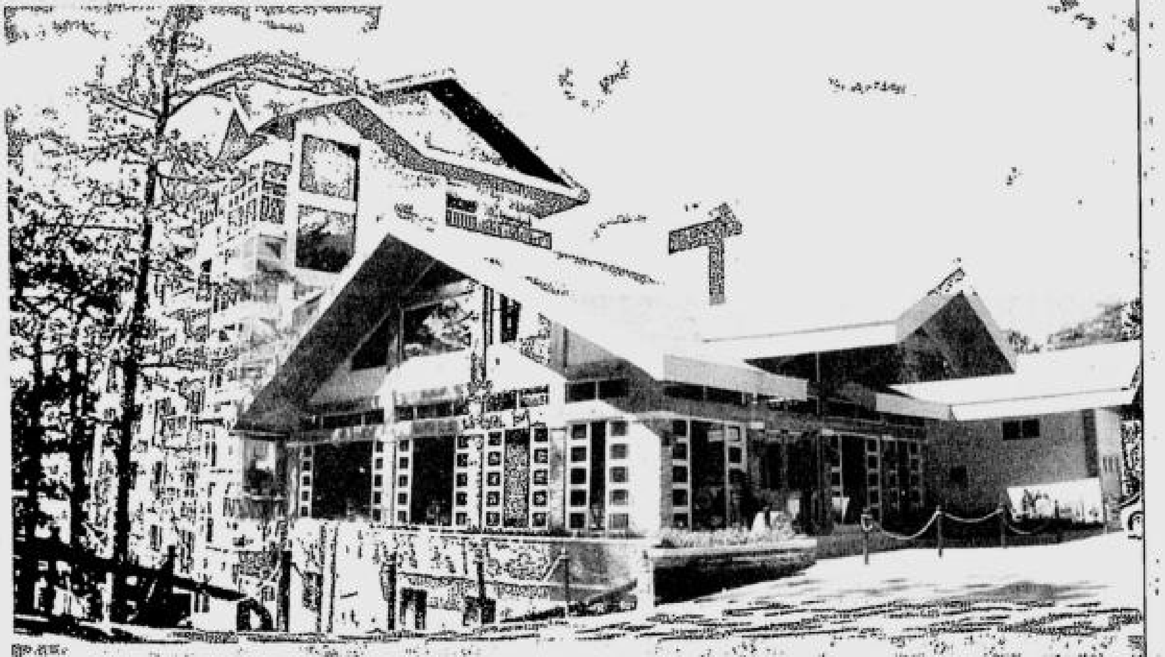
Bars & Restaurants and other facilities
Señora Fidelis Restaurant & Bar serves a great variety of international and local cuisine. Coffee lovers can hang out at Veranda Rufina, an outdoor coffee shop with a fireplace that serves a steaming cup of coffee and tea. For seminars, meetings, receptions and conferences, Rocka Hall on the 6th floor of the hotel wing is the ideal place. It can accommodate up to 200 persons. For small meetings where only 4 to 12 persons are expected, Ridgewood Residence has also boardrooms available upon request.

Other Services
Vacations can also be stressful with all the necessary trip details and other concerns travelers have to attend. Ridgewood Residence is well-prepared and committed to serve and give its visitors convenience by providing the following services: business center, Tours & Transportation Desk, gift shop, laundry & valet, Internet, basement parking, in-room massage and a foreign currency exchange center.

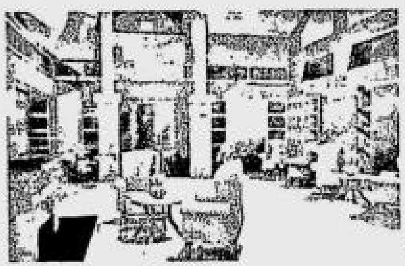
For other recreation and sports, Ridgewood Residence offers jogging trial and horseback riding. A near-by sports center is also available for the sports enthusiasts.

Ridgewood Residence is a member of Star Hotels that has marketing affiliations and reservations accessibility through the Galaxy Worldwide travel distribution system.

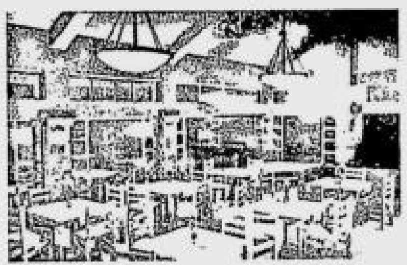
Holiday, seminar and special tour packages featuring special introductory rates are available from tour operators and travel agencies.



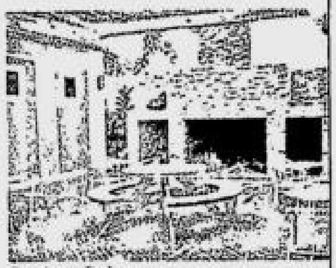
Rest and Rewind



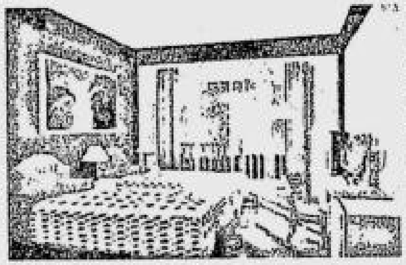
Lobby



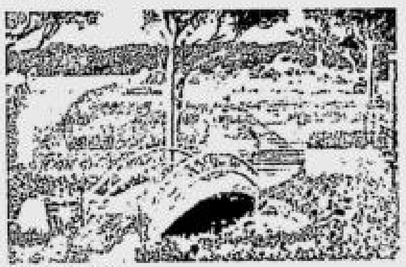
Restaurant



Outdoor Cafe



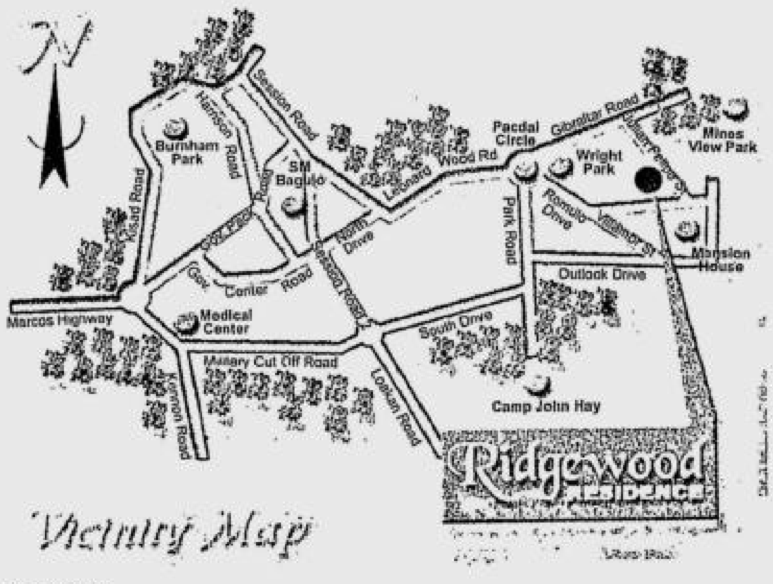
Suite



Rose Garden

HOTEL FEATURES:
- Indoor and outdoor restaurant and bar
- Room service for food and beverages
- Business center with public internet
- Parking space with 24-hour security
- Walk-In landscaped rose garden with cascading waterfalls
- Function hall, 200 pax capacity divisible into two
- Standby generator (275KVA)

ROOM FEATURES:
- Hotel quality orthopedic mattresses
- Coffee / tea kettle in each room
- Colored TV with cable channels
- Telephone system with IDD and NDD
- Toilet and shower with hot and cold water
- Swipe card door lock system
- Tested smoke detector and fire alarm system
- Continuous water supply



Vicinity Map

How to get there:

Option 1: *Take MILITARY CUT-OFF ROAD straight to SOUTH DRIVE, then turn left to ILLUSORIO DRIVE. Upon reaching PACDAL CIRCLE, take ROMULO DRIVE (along which you will see The Mansion on your right), then turn left to JULIAN FELIPE STREET.*

Option 2: *Take GOVERNOR CENTER ROAD which connects to NORTH DRIVE and LEONARD WOOD ROAD. Upon reaching PACDAL CIRCLE, take ROMULO DRIVE (along which you will see The Mansion on your right), then turn left to JULIAN FELIPE STREET.*

Managed by:

Ridgewood
Resources & Development Corporation

Member of:

ROCKA GROUP OF COMPANIES
3/F Rocka Building, Poblacion, Guiguinto, 3015 Bulacan
Tel. Nos.: PLDT 794-0146 • 794-0008 • 794-0280
DIGITEL 670-0799
Fax No.: 794-0279 E-mail: rocka@mozcom.com
Website: www.rockagroup.com

Sales/Reservations Offices:

Luzon: 2/F Rocka Building,
Poblacion, Guiguinto,
3015 Bulacan
Tel. Nos.: (63-44) 794-1924
Telefax: (63-2) 299-6411 &
(63-44) 690-0799
E-mail: ridgewoodhotel@yahoo.com

Visayas: Star Hotels
711 Trinity Plaza,
N. Escario Street, Cebu City
Telefax: (63-32) 231-7673
E-mail: starhtel@mozcom.com

Mindanao: Star Hotels
G/F Imperial Hotel
C.M. Recto Street, Davao City
Tel. nos: (63-82) 300-4210 &
225-5579
Fax: (63-82) 305-2210
E-mail: starhtel@mozcom.com

GREETINGS FROM OUR PARTNERS

BOYSEN

JMP TRADING
McArthur Highway, Asan Sur, Sison, Pangasinan

Perfect Kitchen
Customized Stainless Kitchen Accessories

AMORSOLO'S GLASS IRON WORKS
& ALUMINUM PRODUCTS

CITIKONSTRUK MARKETING, INC.

marathon
Marathon Building Technologies, Inc.

ANUPOL HARDWARE & LUMBER
Gapan-Olongapo Road, San Roque,
San Isidro, Nueva Ecija

A-THEANNA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
Badiwan, Tuba, Benguet
Ready Mix Concrete
Arch. Rolando V. Bautista
President / General Manager

MIS MIDTOWN INDUSTRIAL SALES, INC.
IMPORTER • INDENTOR • WHOLESALER • RETAILER

SOUDO WELD INDUSTRIAL PHILS., INC.

Jardine Schindler

KUYSEN
ENTERPRISES, INC.

Formaply
INDUSTRIES, INC.

CPAC Monier
THE ROOF EXPERT

NORTH SUMMIT BUILDERS DEPOT
Poblacion, Guiguinto, Bulacan
Telefax: (044) 794-3973 Tel.: 690-3584

NISSAN Commercial

MORNING STAR SALES UNLIMITED, INC.

Prudential Guarantee

TKL HARDWARE & CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CORP.

EURO

INDUSTRIAL SURFACE FINISHING CORP.

JEA Steel Industries, Inc.
A Member of DN Steel Group of Companies

HCG

CHARTER

LYS MARKETING CORP.

LIMSON MARKETING, INC.

ETERTON MULTI-RESOURCES CORPORATION

Tarcan Lumber & Hardware

VingCard

ATLANTA INDUSTRIES, INC.
YOUR PIPELINE TO PROGRESS

AWESOME IN TH

Sun Life Financial Ex

AGENTS OF THE YEAR (LIFE)

NATIONAL LEVEL

Rosemarie L. Pabalan
Chestnut NBO
WINNER

Letty L. Lacson
Cedar NBO
1st RUNNER-UP

Danny L. Chua
Osmanthus NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

PER REGION

METRO MANILA 1 & 2

Rosemarie L. Pabalan
Chestnut NBO
WINNER

Letty L. Lacson
Cedar NBO
1st RUNNER-UP

Danny L. Chua
Osmanthus NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

LUZON

Agnes O. Espinosa
Baywood Sales Office
WINNER

Maria Belencita B. Ang
Baywood Sales Office
2nd RUNNER-UP

VISMIN

Arsenia A. Moñiza
Durian NBO
WINNER

Elizabeth L. Duy
Durian NBO
1st RUNNER-UP

Julieta A. Rivera
Acacia NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

SALES CONSULTA (PRE-

NATIONAL LEVEL

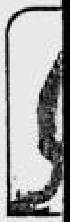
Rosemarie L. Pabalan
Chestnut NBO
WINNER

Rosario S. Dela Cruz
Tindalo NBO
1st RUNNER-UP

Magdalita T. Chua
Green Fir NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

PER

Roser


Maria
Bay

Ma

CUP WINNERS

GENERAL MANAGER'S CUP

Christine T. Chan-Lee
Redwood NBO
WINNER

Susan R. Lee
Sequoia NBO
1st RUNNER-UP

Ma. Venus B. Del Mundo
LUTCF Cedar NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

SALES MANAGER'S CUP

Jean A. Sobiaco
Durian NBO
WINNER

Vivian C. Patco
Molave NBO
1st RUNNER-UP

Jocelyn J. Sucero
Bristlecone NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

PRESIDENT'S CUP

Mary T. Chan
Redwood NBO
WINNER

Ma. Erlinda M. Buenaflor
Bristlecone NBO
1st RUNNER-UP

Arabella V. Borromeo
Cedar NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

We applaud these men and women of passio

Through hard work, perseverance and a genuinely ca
they have helped many individuals and families secur
more certain tomorrow... in other words, the assurance of

Congratulations!

ANI

Christine T. Chan-Lee
Redwood NBO

Susan R. Lee
Sequoia NBO

Ma. Venus B. Del Mundo
LUTCF Cedar NBO

Diane D. Perfecto
Eucalyptus NBO

Linda T. Chua
Osmanthus NBO

Marilou S. A
Chestnut N

Mary T. Chan
Redwood NBO

Ma. Erlinda M. B
Bristlecone N

Do you want to be recognized
as one of Sun Life Financial's brightest?
We have the blueprint to make it happen.
Call 849-9431

12/F Tower II, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Sun Link 849-9888 • www.sunlife.com.ph

In the Philippines, Sun Life Financial is represented by
manager and distributor of Sun Life Prosperity Funds

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

HEIR RADIANCE!

cellence Awards 2004

NTS OF THE YEAR NEED)

REGION

METRO MANILA 1 & 2

arie L. Pabalan
hestnut NBO
WINNER

Rosario S. Dela Cruz
Tindalo NBO
1st RUNNER-UP

Magdalita T. Chua
Green Fir NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

LUZON

Belencita B. Ng
ood Sales Office
WINNER

Josefina Lee
Olive NBO
1st RUNNER-UP

Renato S. Castro
Olive NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

VISMIN

gelina M. Odi
urian NBO
WINNER

Arminda B. Lastimosa
RDavao
1st RUNNER-UP

Amelia S. Sayon
Mahogany NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE YEAR (MUTUAL FUND)

NATIONAL LEVEL

Romy G. Ang
Osmanthus NBO
WINNER

Celine S. Chan
Sequoia NBO
1st RUNNER-UP

Fredezwinda T. Gonzales
Tindalo NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

PER REGION

METRO MANILA 1 & 2

Romy G. Ang
Osmanthus NBO
WINNER

Celine S. Chan
Sequoia NBO
1st RUNNER-UP

Fredezwinda T. Gonzales
Tindalo NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

LUZON

Maria Belencita B. Ng
Baywood Sales Office
WINNER

Prudencio N. De La Torre
Magnolia Woods NBO
1st RUNNER-UP

Joel V. Viacrusis
Magnolia Woods NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

VISMIN

Alfredo M. Sy
Durian NBO
WINNER

Marcelino L. Manalo
Durian NBO
1st RUNNER-UP

Nilda D. Mationg
Bristlecone NBO
2nd RUNNER-UP

n.

ring heart,
a brighter,
a Sun-lit future.

FINANCIAL PLANNER AWARDEES

Victoria B. Lleno
Red Oak NBO

Yony T. Quan
Redwood NBO

Celine S. Chan
Sequoia NBO

Henry T. Lee-Chun
Redwood NBO

Helen C. Ang
Red Oak NBO

NUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDEES (TRIPLE A)

UNIT MANAGER LEVEL

Judy C. Lauson
Evergreen NBO

Sabina Y. Cadampog
Acacia NBO

Ema C. Gonzales
Bristlecone NBO

Ernesto B. Go
Bristlecone NBO

Susan N. Maramba
Market Dev

Juliet J. Mejica
Bristlecone NBO

SALES MANAGER LEVEL

Jean A. Sobiaco
Durian NBO

Vivian C. Patco
Molave NBO

Jocelyn J. Sucero
Bristlecone NBO

Annie D. Yu
Osmanthus NBO

Wilhelmina L. Bondoc
Baywood Sales Office

Mary Elizabeth C. Go
Bristlecone NBO

NEW BUSINESS MANAGER LEVEL

sabella V. Borromeo
Cedar NBO

Benjamin L. Yao
Sequoia NBO

Bernardo R. Mercader
Acacia NBO

Yolanda M. Legaspi
Rosewood NBO

Nancy D. Balayut
Cypress NBO

Alfredo M. Sy
Durian NBO

Sun Life Financial

Because trust is earned

un Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc., offering life insurance products; Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc., the Sun Life Financial Plans, Inc., offering pension and education plans.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PEOPLE at WORK

Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Focus on doing a good job keeps top news executive grounded

FLORES

By Cecile G. Garcia
Contributor

CAREER TALES

CAN one be low-key in a high-powered job? Marissa Flores, senior vice president for News and Public Affairs of GMA Network, Inc., proves this can be done to a certain extent. Keeping a low profile seems to come naturally to Flores. "I like being low-key," says Flores who apparently doesn't care for the trappings and the glamor and glitz that purportedly come with the territory.

However, for one who does her job well, being low-key all the time is just not possible. Just last year, Flores was picked to receive the 2004 Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Award for Broadcasting Management. In a sense, the award represents a summary of everything that she has accomplished in the broadcast industry. Earlier, in 1996, she was named Television News Producer of the Year by the Rotary Club of Manila.

Flores is focused on doing a good job. The rest is secondary. She says, "I'm in charge of all public affairs programs. I attend corporate meetings where we plan and strategize. I report directly to the president and the executive vice president." A great part of her job is managing people of every type and variety, as well as managing different talents and different shows. She points out, "I have to put all these together and steer them towards one direction."

Where she belongs

Flores is a BA Communication (major in Journalism) graduate of the University of the Philippines. "I took my college internship or practicum at GMA, where I met Tina Palma who introduced me to broadcasting," she says, recalling her initial exposure to the network. She remarks, "I liked it. In a sense, GMA was my first choice. I wanted to get a job there, but it was difficult at that time. I ended up working for a company that provided services for foreign networks like ABC. I stayed for a year and then joined a Japanese newspaper's local bureau." One day, she learned that there was an opening at GMA. She was taken in on a contractual basis. For about three years, she did research, became an assistant producer, then an executive producer of a public affairs program and eventually became a regular employee.

By 1990, Flores was program manager for News and Public Affairs, and was promoted to assistant vice president for Public Affairs two years later. It wasn't long before she was named vice president for production. In November 2000, she became officer-in-charge, News and Public Affairs. She assumed her current position in July 2001.

Intact integrity

Fourteen years with the still growing network has taught her some important lessons, claims Flores. She says, "I've learned that hard work always pays off and that you can never go wrong with honesty." Because competition in broadcasting can be ruthless, she has developed a healthy attitude towards it. Ratings may be the name of the game and being number one may seem the be-all and end-all. "But being number one doesn't mean losing sight of responsibility. Being number one and keeping your integrity intact should go hand-in-hand," she avers. Her passion for excellence notwithstanding, Flores says she would not sacrifice credibility and would uphold values at all costs.

The truth is, Flores never planned a career in broadcasting. "I just wanted a job in television," she quips. Earlier, she wanted to do something that involved writing or to go into music (because she likes singing). That she would have a career that was so consuming never crossed her mind. "My work is consuming in terms of everything," she says.

First priority

This has been, in fact, her biggest challenge from day one. "You spend weekends hoping nothing will happen and your phone won't ring. Everything revolves around your job and it is a difficult job. Production is so complicated. Where I am now, work is first priority." Expansion poses an even greater challenge, she adds. GMA recently inked a production and blocktime agreement with Channel 11.

Nothing beats the thrill of seeing a program succeed. And it's the best part of her job, maintains Flores, and it is what motivates her. "I'm also motivated by a desire to pave the way for the next batch, for them to uphold what we built," she says.

Flores values honesty, diligence and fairness, and is turned off by any form of inefficiency. Describing herself as a hands-on, open-minded manager, she is non-judgmental and tries to be fair at all times. She notes, "I'm told I have a sharp sense of what works and what doesn't. One thing I can say, I really work hard." She believes in team effort and is grateful for having people who are dedicated and committed to their work. Equally committed, she finds fulfillment in producing "shows that make an impact" and in seeing people she has taught and trained doing their job well.

Instinct for success

What about her achievements? Says Flores, "I believe the News and Public Affairs deparment itself is the showcase of my achievements." For over a decade, she has been producing and supervising a number of GMA 7's successful and award-winning shows, such as "I-Witness," "Debate," "Saksi" and "Brigada Siete" (she was the first executive producer of the last two mentioned). Notably, Flores also produced and supervised "Eleksyon 2004," "Eleksyon 2001," "Saksi sa Kasaysayan (2001)" and "The President on Trial (2001)," specials on the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

It could be her unerring sense of what works and what doesn't or the passion she pours into her work. But, Flores would tell you that it's largely team effort and the unstinting support of the network itself that account for the success of her shows. She explains further, "We have a programming committee that meets regularly to determine what shows to air. I recommend. I suppose it also helps that the atmosphere at GMA is one of healthy competition and openness. Everybody is free to talk, even to the top brass. We are not bureaucratic."

The eldest of two children (she has a younger brother), Flores cites her grandmother as her role model. Here's why: "My grandmother, Lola Petra, was strong and driven, yet humble and compassionate. She was also very prayerful. She helped shape my character. The day she died in 1984 was probably the saddest day of my life." She also admires Atty. Felipe Gozon, president and CEO of GMA. "Because he's a regular guy, but very sharp and diligent."

At this point, Flores has but one simple "ambition." She would like to achieve a perfect balance between her work and her private life.

Employee volunteerism in Petron is a 'people power movement'

By Ernie O. Cecilia
Contributor

DO YOU ever wonder why people at work in plush Makati offices would go to rural areas in their own time and plant mangrove propagules, distribute relief goods, build houses, or teach indigent children? What do they have to gain by sharing time with street children or cleaning the coast or helping motorists in distress?

Perhaps, people just want to be part of something, knowingly or unknowingly—like a "people power movement."

Arlene Jose-Martinez is a market planning analyst at Petron Corporation. For the past five years, she has been sharing her time as a Petron volunteer. She says, "As long as somebody is willing to share, hope springs eternal for this world. We do not want our children to grow up in a world full of selfishness, hatred and neglect. We want to plant the seed of hope in each beneficiary to continue striving to be a better person, knowing that somebody would be there if he needs help along the way."

Arlene is one of the thousands of Petron volunteers-88 percent of employees and 100 percent of managers volunteer yearly in various projects in education, environment and health and human services. To make these projects work, Petron organized its volunteer employees and resources into what they call Volunteerism in Action (VIA).

"Through VIA, we are able to exhibit the kind of corporate leadership where promises are fulfilled, commitments are honored and pronouncements are lived up to," avers Marilou Erni, Petron Foundation executive director. Through the VIA, Petron draws management and employee support for an average of 12 projects yearly.

Way of life

Employee volunteerism is a way of life in Petron. In 2002, the volunteer projects generated 30,000 volunteers that benefited over 41,000 families and individuals across the country. Helping large numbers of people have made better lives. It also made many Petron employees count their blessings.

Max Querubin, an accountant, says, "I never realized the extent of poverty in our country until I volunteered in many projects for the rural areas. Through these projects, we were able to help in a larger scale. Individually and with very limited resources, we could not have made a difference to the people we helped."

PETRON employee volunteers take part in relief efforts to help typhoon victims in Nueva Ecija.

Volunteerism in Petron is not limited to projects in rural areas. Susan Jo, a treasury officer, started volunteer work as an adviser in the Junior Achievement of the Philippines, Inc. (JAPI). Says Susan, "I never took the task for granted. I gave so much of myself to JAPI that I scored a perfect attendance, despite having to literally squeeze in JAPI work into my hectic schedule."

Psychic payback

So, what do volunteers get in return? Susan feels good that "my students tell me how they appreciate my efforts to teach them. What could be nicer than that? My boss, my peers and other Petron employees who hear about what I did acknowledge my contribution to JAPI. But what I like most is that I feel good inside knowing that I did my best for the benefit of others—no amount of money can buy that feeling inside me."

Like Susan, Norma Alllorde of Accounts Receivables wants to share her blessings "as a true Christian, in my own little way."

Executive Director Erni says, "Volunteerism gives our employees an opportunity for personal growth-to go beyond their professional chores and be involved in making a difference in society…"

Administrative systems analyst Nenita Clasara has realized such personal growth by actively volunteering in various projects. She remembers, "I started volunteering to reach out to our less fortunate brothers and sisters—something that I can't do without the help of the volunteer project in Petron. I have grown spiritually. The time and effort we give to our brothers and sisters are immeasurable to them."

Mission to help

Nenita says, "I do not believe that God so loved the poor that He made plenty of them. I say that God so loved us all that He made those who have plenty to share their blessings to the less fortunate brothers and sisters."

Sometimes, some veteran volunteers could not join certain projects due to work pressure. Dolores Romero of Transaction Management missed Project Joy last year. She said, "In my absence, I volunteered my children to Project Joy. They were happy and excited with the rare experience of helping poor calamity-stricken children. I know that my children have somehow developed some awareness that they are more blessed and that it's better to help than be on the receiving end."

Erni says, "We are humbled by the many awards and citations received by our volunteerism projects—the Anvil, the Gold Quill and the Gawad Galing Pook awards motivated the employees to continue "to do good to others."

EMPLOYEE/B11

Reader needs buyers for medicinal plants

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM a regional director for research of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and presently assigned at the regional office in Tuguegarao City. Your column provides very useful insights and practical advice to small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Our group of technical researchers are mainly tasked with generating technologies and information about natural resources, environment and various ecosystems. It is also in good part responsible in assisting the various upland communities in the development of appropriate livelihood projects. There are many options and opportunities but also many challenging obstacles and difficulties in our setting such as the lack of financing and low access to marketing networks.

In one of our Community Livelihood Assistance Special Program, we have assisted a People's Organization at Penablanca in the establishment of Sambong and Lagundi plantation for a total of one hectare. The said plantation is now ready for harvest but we are faced with the problem in terms of marketing. We have made some representation with another agency but there has been no concrete result from potential buyers of raw materials of medicinal plants. We need buyers who presently process and sell medicinal or herbal tea.

Kindly do us the favor and help us find suitable and willing buyers of said raw materials. This action will provide the initial jumpstart to further development of subject upland communities within this region. Thank you for your help and your advice on this matter will be most welcome.

EB Principe

Thank you for your letter. I wish to commend you for being proactive and demonstrating real concern for the people's organization that you are trying to help. So refreshing an action from a government agency. Frankly, the best help I can give is making public your letter. My hope is for company owners who need your materials to come forward and we provide the link with you.

But you are right. In this day and age where technology can bridge people through text or e-mail we don't have a network that links suppliers and buyers, especially for agricultural products. I dream that the government will take the initiative to create a web site where farmers can get information on prices of supplies and produce, putting buyers and sellers in touch. I recall an initiative was started years back but up to now nothing tangible has come of it. Or its existence is known only to a few.

Then again, in terms of process, it is better if the people's organization through your assistance made some market research before embarking on the project. This means undertaking an opportunity assessment that clearly identifies the potential buyers for the medicinal plants even before planting. What would be ideal is to have real and face-to-face conversations with actual buyers. In this manner, you reduce waste or what the Japanese call "muda." You can plan ahead, knowing at what price they will buy so you can compute expenses to find out whether the project is feasible and profitable. You can also consider added costs of transport, handling, storage etc. But let me hope with you that a company would need the medicinal plants you will harvest.

On another matter, we thank Carmencita Bayot of Land Bank of the Philippines for responding very quickly to check out the possibility of our Agribusiness Entrepreneur getting financing for the water supply equipment needed in his farm. We also received offers to invest from two overseas Filipinos, in case the entrepreneur is open to equity investors.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Meantime, take care and God bless.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

How do jobseekers look for jobs?

By Fritzie R. Pangan
Contributor

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

WHETHER you are a fresh graduate or an old timer in the job-search race, getting a job nowadays is anything but a walk in the park. As of October 2004, more than 3.89 million Filipinos remain jobless. This staggering figure continues to increase as local employers are forced to reduce hiring activities and implement retrenchment as a response to the country's tough economic situation.

Despite the lingering economic crisis, there are bright spots in the employment picture. For instance, the government has outlined employment-promoting strategies specifically, employment generation or the creation of new work opportunities in the domestic labor market. Between October 2003 and October 2004, the National Statistics Office reported the creation of more than 200,000 new jobs. However, with more candidates competing for these few positions, jobseekers need to take a more serious approach to job search.

Considering that job hunting is definitely more challenging than it used to be, People at Work Pulse decided to conduct a survey to find out how jobseekers look for jobs. Specifically, readers were asked how long they have been searching for a job and how many companies they have applied to. What factors do they consider important and methods do they employ when applying? Finally, do companies give feedback regarding their application? And if companies do respond, what processes do applicants go through next?

Of the 67 respondents, 70 percent were females, and 30 percent were males; 77 percent were married and 29 percent were single. The average age of respondents was 29 years (range 20-42 years). Based on the results, respondents had been job hunting for approximately nine months and have applied to at least 12 different companies.

What jobseekers look for

When asked what factors they considered important when applying, the five most common responses were: position category (78 percent), location (70 percent), company name (69 percent), compensation (63 percent), and company type (i.e. multinational, government, family business) (54 percent). Less than half of the respondents chose factors such as part-time or full-time employment (48 percent), industry type (47 percent), and work schedule (31 percent).

In terms of the methods they have used during job search, newspaper job ads (90 percent) remain to be the most preferred source of job opportunities. Followed by the use of web-based job search (67 percent), hand-carrying resumés to various companies (48 percent), and attending job fairs (48 percent). Surprisingly, only 21 percent utilize the networking method.

Feedback from organizations

Respondents revealed that majority (47 percent) of the companies they have applied to do not give feedback. Twenty-three percent give feedback when applicants follow up, and only 30 percent of companies voluntarily give feedback regarding their application.

Respondents from the survey said it took organizations an average of 14 days to respond to their initial application. When companies do respond, majority (90 percent) of the respondents said they go through interviews while 80 percent take written tests next. Thirty percent of the respondents had panel interviews while 20 percent had physical exams. Assessment centers and in-basket exercises had the least number of responses.

Tips for job searchers

What do the results mean for job searchers? One implication of the lengthy recruitment process is that job searchers must have the perseverance to put themselves "on the bench" not just for weeks but even months. While they are waiting, they can consider enrolling in short courses to further boost their employability. Internship or training programs are another way to get a foot in the door in organizations. Furthermore, considering that most companies do not proactively give feedback, it is up to you to conscientiously follow up your application.

Although job ads are the primary source of information, job searchers must also keep in mind that many openings are not necessarily advertised. Thus, using your network or sending your resumé to organizations you want to work for are also good ideas. Even if a company may not have a current opening, your name will be on their file.

The reality is, however, that with the tough economic situation, many jobseekers just don't have the luxury of time and resources to sustain a lengthy job search and often settle for whatever available job comes their way first. However, bear in mind that a bad-fitting job may not have any long-term value for your career. Although luck and opportunity are keys to getting the job that you want, just as important is having a solid idea of who you are, what your capabilities are, and where you want to go.

(*The author is a graduate student in Industrial Organizational Psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. For inquiries about this study, please contact* ateneocord@admu.edu.ph.)

ILLUSTRATION BY LA MISTADES

Employee volunteerism in Petron ...

From page B10

In December 2004, Petron (together with Intel and Meralco) won the National Award for Volunteerism given by the Philippine Volunteer Services Coordinating Agency.

Erni continues, "We are fortunate to have received two international awards from Gold Quill and the United Way International."

Major corporate thrust

Petron employees take pride in helping send to school 1,000 children every year from underserved communities. Hundreds of employees join the annual Lakbay Alalay in the service of the motoring public.

Petron has successfully incorporated corporate social responsibility as a major thrust and all Petron business units are actively engaged in the business of corporate citizenship in the communities where they operate. A showcase of a dynamic partnership with the government is the Bataan Integrated Coastal Management program.

Petron's VIA, as a people power movement, answers the basic tenets of volunteerism, which UN Secretary General Kofi Annan captured perfectly when he said, "At the heart of volunteerism are the ideals of service and solidarity and the belief that tomorrow, we can make the world a better place."

Truly, the world where Petron operates has become a much better place because people at work care not only for themselves but for the less fortunate others.

(*Mr. Cecilia is president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He writes the "Ask Your Career Counselor" column in Sunday People at Work twice a month. Send feedback to* ec4u@edsamail.com.ph)

Is your current job related to your college course?

PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse. The results of this "pulse" will be published the following month. To quicken your response rates; Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month. Winners from the respondents of last month's survey are **Criselda Coronacion** and **Gerald Magtoto** (please contact the Philippine Daily Inquirer to claim your prizes).

1. Is your current job related to your undergraduate course?
Yes_____ No_____

2. What was your college course/ undergraduate degree? (please specify)

____

3. Please rank your reasons for your choice of college course (1=highest, 5=lowest)
a. Personal dreams and ambitions
b. Expectations of others (parents/relatives/friends/etc.)
c. Future employment advantages
d. Limited knowledge regarding college course options
e. Other reason, if any (please specify)

____

4. Would you rather have a job that is related to your course in college?
Yes_____ No_____

5. What were your top 3 reasons for choosing your current line of work? (Rank top 3; 1=highest)
a. Personal growth and fulfillment
b. Skills and competency development
c. Financial need/reward
d. Future career opportunities
e. Lack of other employment options
f. Other (please specify)

____

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

6. How is your undergraduate course important in your current line of work? (check if applicable)
a. It gave me the initial technical expertise for my current job.
b. It gave me general skills to handle my present line of work.
c. It gave me the personal preparation/ internal motivation for my present-day profession.
d. It gave me the formality of having a college diploma.
e. It has no consequence whatsoever
f. Other, if any (please specify)

____

7. Did you take further studies after college?
____ Yes
____ No
____ No, but planning to

Name: ____________________
Nature of Job: ____________________
Company Name: ____________________
Industry: ____________________
Telephone/Mobile/E-mail: ____________________

Mail or fax this form, e-mail or text your answers to: People at Work Pulse, Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development, 2nd Floor, Hoffner Bldg., Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Fax (632) 426-6065 or e-mail ateneocord@admu.edu.ph. Or text answers to (0920) 831-9522. Write: topic 1. (answer), 2. (answer), etc. name, gender, status, position, company, address, contact numbers or e-mail.

Panalo ka sa kakaibang negosyong ito!

Cut cost on your sticker-making

"The Roland Versacamm print and cut machines are great products! I am all set up for success in my graphics business with my SP540V. Glad dad backed me up with the capital."
– RV Chan, entrepreneur

Print & Cut single decal or bulk quantities cost-effectively!
- NO EXTRA COST on die-cutting
- NO EXTRA COST on color separation
- NO EXTRA COST on lamination

Personalized Stickers · T-shirt Transfers · Product ID Labels · Merchandising Labels · Auto decals

Roland
The No. 1 Choice of Signmakers around the World.

Exclusive Distributor:
Tgraf TEAM GRAPHICS

Tel: 726-3991 to 98
locals 232, 204, 203
Fax: 723-7951
Email: inquire@tgraf.com.ph
www.tgraf.com.ph

Other Tgraf business packages include: Roland SJ-740 printer for large-format printing, Roland SJ-1000 & WitColor Ultra for Billboard printing, Roland Cutters for vinyl signmaking, Roland Modela for 3D engraving and modeling, Javelin printer & CIM embosser for ID card production, LaserPro for laser engraving, Xerox Phaser color printers for Print-on-Demand, Ilford Studio digital photo enlargements for professional photographers, ECRM Imagesetters for color separation, Roland Metaza for photographic metal engraving, Stampeda for rubber stamp-making, and more. Call us NOW and put yourself in a fresh, new business!

Fun.

Serious Fun.

▶ More gutsy and spirited, with thrilling handling to match, the new C-Class has finally arrived. Equipped with DIRECT CONTROL steering and suspension, every model is more agile around town and totally exhilarating around corners. The sports package which includes 17 inch mag wheels, steering wheel with "gearshift buttons", sports suspension, sports leather seats, sports pedals, matt chrome interior finish and polish stainless steel pipes.

▶ Sporty styling revisions lend every C-Class even greater presence. Anti-scratch nano-technology paint-work gleams up to three-times longer. And inside, a fully redesigned cockpit provides an oasis of calm, with even more luxurious touches to complete your driving experience.

▶ The new generation C-Class. Driven by the driven.

Mercedes-Benz

CATS

CATS Motors, Inc. Global City - 32nd St. cor. Rizal Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila Tel: (632) 815 7777 Fax: (632) 815 9153
CATS Motors, Inc. Greenhills - 1008 EDSA Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila Tel: (632) 723 5808 Fax: (632) 726 7741
Email: mercedesbenz@cats.com.ph Website: www.mercedes-benz.com.ph

RP participates in UBR global launch

IN ADDRESSING the number of more than 2.6 million unregistered Filipino children nationwide, the Philippines joins international child-centered development organization Plan International in its first global advocacy on Universal Birth Registration (UBR) aimed at upholding every child's right to a name and nationality around the world.

Plan International's UBR global launch takes place on Feb. 22 at the United Nations headquarters in New York headed by Nobel Prize awardee Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Plan International chief executive officer Tom Miller. On Feb. 23, which has been proclaimed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as National Birth Registration Day under proclamation number 790, Plan Philippines and the National Statistics Office (NSO) will lead the UBR launch in the country through the Birth Registration Project (BRP) with the theme "Pangalan Ko, Karapatan Ko (My Name, My Right)."

Key stakeholders in various sectors participated in a covenant signing on birth registration during the recently concluded UBR Advocates Solidarity Forum Feb. 9. The UBR covenant was designed in furtherance of the Manila Declaration on UBR that aims to achieve 100-percent birth registration of all children 18 years old and below. Other advocacy targets include the institutionalization of child-friendly policies supportive of birth registration such as the Child 21 (Framework for Children), the National Plan of Action for Children, civil registration of Indigenous Peoples (IPs), birth registration of children in need of special protection, use of father's surname, monitoring of birth registration, magna carta for children in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and civil registration for Muslims.

The UBR Covenant will be presented during the UBR launch dinner cocktail reception hosted by Plan-Philippines today at Traders Hotel to be attended by key stakeholders and advocates, which include government and NGO partners, legislators, church leaders, embassy officials, the media, the children's sector and other civic groups.

A mobile registration was recently held at Maharlika Village in Taguig to facilitate actual registration of Muslims and at Elsie Gaches Village, Muntinlupa, which houses more than 600 mentally challenged children in need of special protection. The mobile registration was conducted in partnership with the local government units and their civil registry offices.

BARBIE PRINCESS OF GOODWILL

Barbie Princess Anneliese (right) and Richwell Trading Corp assistant vice president for marketing Maye Yao (left) award Kaye Miranda for being the grand champion of the national search for the Barbie Princess of Goodwill held at SM Megamall. Kaye bested hundreds of participants from different parts of the country. The grand champion received P50,000 in cash, P20,000 worth of Barbie toys, Globe phone kit and Kellogg's special gift packs. As the Barbie Princess of Goodwill, Kaye will be given the mission to travel around the country with Barbie Princess Anneliese to advocate hope, friendship and love and to promote the Barbie Princess and the Pauper Doll Collection. This search is made possible by Mattel and Richwell Trading Corp, co-presented by Globe, ABS-CBN's 'Magandang Umaga Bayan' Kellogg's and Aboitiz SuperFerry in cooperation with SM Supermalls, Dusit Hotel Nikko and Magic 89.9. For more information, call 732-5141 to 47.

Mathematics of investment for real estate seminar set

THE MATHEMATICS side and techniques of real estate investment are constantly undergoing advancement. With the continuous development of new tools such as the financial calculators and computers, faster and more accurate methods of computation are made available. With these new tools, it is now much easier and faster to undertake real estate computations such as but not limited to a deeper investment analysis.

Unfortunately, many real estate developers and investors who are still not aware or updated on this are failing to modernize and make use of these new developments, and sad to say, setting themselves behind the others.

To level the playing field, Urban Institute of Real Estate will conduct a seminar on "Mathematics of Real Estate Investment" on Feb. 26, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Conference Center, Benavidez corner Trasierra Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

The four-hour lecture will cover explanation and sample problems on interest formulas, cash flow diagrams, present and future value, sinking fund, equal periodic payment, graduated periodic payments and its application to various real estate situations, how to prepare tables of value using the computer and how to use table of values, calculators and computers in computing real estate interest problems, mathematics of the different method of return analysis like net present value and internal rate of return method and external rate of return (ERR) method. Participants can also avail themselves of free computerized copies of table of values of the different interest factors.

Lecturer is engineer Enrico S. Cruz, licensed real estate consultant and a real estate fellow and has more than three decades of working experience in engineering, construction, real estate development and education. He placed first in the real estate appraiser's board examinations in 1994 and 8th in the real estate brokers board examination in 1988.

Urban is also conducting other seminars, which can be attended separately, on the same time and venue as follows: Feb 23-How to Start and Manage A Successful Real Estate Brokerage Company; Feb 24-Property Management and Real Estate Appraisal; Feb 25-Taxation Aspects of Real Estate Transactions and Property Assessment; For details and inquiries, call Urban Institute at 681-0928 or 0916-4269174, or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

JERGENS TEXT TO MILLIONS PROMO FINALISTS

Three loyal Jergens consumers were among the lucky finalists in the Jergens Text to Millions (JTM) Promo. They are Alma Perez of Mindoro (2nd from right), Junaline Platil of Surigao City (3rd from right), and Faridah Pangompig of Bohol, represented by cousin Giovanni Sirad (3rd from left). The Jergens Text to Millions promo gives lucky consumers the chance to win P1 million pesos and instant cell phone loads. Jergens products included in the promo are Moisturizer, Soap (bar and liquid) and Body Wash. Jergens patrons can watch out for the P1 million play-off challenge at Eat Bulaga aired on GMA-7. Also shown are Vibelle Manufacturing Corp group product manager Rajini Romero (right), Anna Ortiguerra (2nd from left), and a representative from Buy N' Text Corp. Jergens is a premium brand of skin care products exclusively manufactured and distributed in the Philippines by Vibelle Manufacturing Corp.

Good cholesterol cuts CHD risk

INCREASING the level of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, also known as "good cholesterol", is essential to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease (CHD), according to a study.

The Prospective Cardiovascular Münster (Procam), a German study, showed that 45 percent of men who developed CHD have HDL levels of less than 35 mg/dL (0.91 mmol/L). Men with low HDL level have a fourfold risk of developing CHD compared to men who have higher HDL levels.

According to the study, 95 percent of patients with low HDL levels also had high serum triglyceride (a form of fat in the blood). High serum triglyceride and low HDL level, risk factors for heart disease, are found in people who are obese, insulin resistant and diabetic. Around 80 percent of deaths in the study population was caused by CHD.

"Such findings gain additional clinical importance at a time when health care professionals are increasingly concerned about the clinical impact of metabolic disorders in the community, such as pre-diabetes and metabolic syndrome," said Dr. Gerd Assmann, director of the Institute of Arteriosclerosis Research at the University of Münster, Germany.

The HDL-Atherosclerosis Treatment Study (HATS) included 160 patients with CHD, low HDL-C (average of 31 mg/dL) and normal serum LDL (average of 125 mg/dL). After the combination therapy of nicotinic acid and statin was given, it significantly decreased the LDL-C level by 42 percent and a 26 percent increase of HDL-C level. The study also showed that the reversible relationship of LDL-C and HDL-C level reduced CHD risk from 60 to 90 percent.

Meanwhile, the Coronary Drug Project (CDP) involved 8,000 patients with previous myocardial infarction who took lipid nicotinic acid. Results showed that nicotinic acid reduced the risk of non-fatal MI and cerebrovascular events (like strokes) by 24 percent within a six-year treatment period. Fifteen years after, another follow-up study found that nicotinic acid decreased death rate by 11 percent.

Several other studies such as the Lipid Research Clinics Prevalence Follow-up Study, Coronary Prevention Trial and Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial concluded that for every 1 mg/dL decrease in the plasma (fluid portion of the blood) levels of HDL there was a 2 to 3 percent increase risk for CHD.

These studies have shown that a high HDL level may help prevent CHD. Any intervention to raise the HDL level is highly beneficial in a battle against this dreaded ailment.

Coronary heart disease continues to be a major burden to millions of people worldwide. The World Health Organization estimates that 17 million people are at risk of CHD.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the Philippines. In 1998, more than 55,000 Filipinos succumbed to heart attacks and other related coronary deaths.

The increase in the incidence of heart disease is linked with a sedentary lifestyle, unhealthy diet, smoking and alcohol drinking.

THAI AIRWAYS AT TRAVEL TOUR EXPO

One of the more popular booths in the recently concluded Travel Tour Expo was that of Thai Airways, which it shared with the Tourism Authority of Thailand. The booth's main attraction was an exquisitely designed Thai gazebo, doubling up as a seller's area for the various Thai companies that participated in the Travel Expo, such as Quality Suites, Phuket Peninsula Spa and Resort, Samui Peninsula Spa and Resort, and Tiffany's Show. The booth also invited visitors to sample various tropical fruits flown in from Thailand especially for the occasion through the courtesy of the Royal Thai Embassy. Shown is the booth manned by Celia Atendido, TG account manager, and Malu Dueñas, TG corporate account manager. Thai Airways flies from Manila 10 times a week to Bangkok and daily to Osaka. For more information on the airline's affordable Royal Orchid Holidays summer tour packages, call your travel agent or Thai at 812-4744 or log on to www.thaiairways.com.

Bits & Clips

Taiwan offers scholarships

TO PROMOTE the academic exchange between Taiwan and the Philippines, the Taiwan government offers seven scholarship grants to Filipinos to pursue their higher education degrees in Taiwan starting school year 2005. Qualified applicants will receive a monthly stipend of NT$30,000 inclusive of tuition, accommodation, insurance and miscellaneous fees, for two years for master's and three years for doctoral degrees. Scholars can attend the Language Enrichment Program (LEP) for one year before starting their graduate studies. Scholars taking the LEP will receive a monthly stipend of NT$25,000. Application period is ongoing until March 31. For more details, call Mei Chjuan Chan at 812-2016.

The art of persuasion

INTERNATIONAL speaker Raju Mandhyan deals with the essential subject of the art of persuasion. This workshop provides a model and several tools to enhance competencies in convincing people. This seminar is slated from Feb. 23 to 25, 1 to 5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas, Pasig City. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles Inc, a training company. Call Mercy at 638-7719/20.

'Cutting through the chaos'

JOAQUIN Cunanan & Co, the Philippine member firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers, will conduct a tax seminar titled "Cutting Through the Chaos" on Feb. 23, 1 to 6 p.m. at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City. During the seminar, two former policy advisers will share their insights on the latest legislative developments in tax, how they see the game progressing, and suggest some initiatives they believe the government should consider if it wants to address the more fundamental deficiencies in the Philippine tax system. The speakers will also discuss recent court decisions and issuances of the Bureau of Internal Revenue that may have a significant impact on business. Interested parties can call 459-2044 for inquiries.

ProductFILES

Bird's new phone models

BIRD, China's leading mobile phone brand, introduces fresh and exciting new models in the Philippines. Stylish yet affordable, the S190 can easily captivate anyone with its colored display screen featuring 4,096 sparkling colors and 16 polyphonic ring tones. Coming in either dazzling chili-red or sleek silver cases, the S190 is also slim enough to fit in anyone's pocket. Having a standby time of 100 hours and talk time of up to 5 hours, the S190 is a real bargain at only P4,740.

With its durable case and elegantly understated design, the A130 is the ultimate in compact sophistication. The flip-top phone has a dazzling 65K color display screen and a choice of 64 distinctive polyphonic rings tones. MMS, GPRS, WAP and EMS capable, the A130 also enables one to capture clear pictures using its handy 2X zoom, 300K CMOS built-in camera. The A130 is reasonably priced at only P9,990.

Also available from Bird are the S288, S1150 and S1190 models. The S288 and S1150 are already the fastest selling models for Talk N' Text.

Bird is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Comworks Inc. For more information, call 931-5256 or 951-7992 to 95. Bird sold more than 2 million units worldwide in 2004.

GMA proclaims Rotary Week

MALACAÑANG has proclaimed Feb. 17 to 23 Rotary Centennial Week. President Macapagal-Arroyo in her proclamation urged government agencies to give assistance to all Rotary districts in celebrating the role played by Rotary "in uplifting the disadvantaged members of our society". Introduced in the Philippines in 1919, Rotary has grown into 10 districts with more than 700 Rotary Clubs nationwide. The proclamation of Rotary Centennial Week was proposed by RI District Gov. George L. Howard and the Centennial presidents.

'Compassion' at PCAM

THE PHILIPPINE College for the Advancement in Medicine Foundation Inc (PCAM), a non-stock, non-profit organization established in 1995 for the promotion of traditional and alternative health care in the Philippines and accredited by the Department of Health and the Professional Regulation Commission, is holding its seminar "Compassion-based Medicine: The Prime of Doctor-Patient Relationship" to be given by Dr. Eugenio Jose F. Ramos at Club Filipino on Feb. 24. He will explain how and why this is most important in the treatment of the sick. Sponsor for this affair is Enzacta Philippines. For more inquiries, call Edna at 411-8450 and 373-2141.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8978425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P245 per column centimeter
P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071 Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS SYPHILIS, HERPES, AIDS
ADULT CIRCUMCISION
VAGINAL REPAIR
SKIN DISEASES
COMPLETE LABORATORY
No. 8 Purdue St., Cubao,
Q. C. back of
Stella Maris College
OPEN 8 AM to 6 PM
MON. to SAT.
Tel. 4392706 / 9139474

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

PARAKLESIS THERAPEUTIC TRAINING CENTER
Call 453-2645/0919-3834178 /0919-5901076
SEMINAR ON MASSAGE!!!
(Free Meals)
With Certificate & Diploma
02-3233269 Male Factor

ADAM'S APPLE 3605724

Alternative Therapy 8327363

AROMATHERAPHY 752-0018

ASK BELL MALE MASSEUR (0921)5364794

Karisma Massage Ctr 4215996

MALE MASSAGE 0920-9064273

MASSAGE 8547144 VICTOR

MR. UNIVERSE MASSAGE 1157 Quezon Ave. 410-1259

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★ 11A Kamias QC 4350978

RELAXING MASSAGE 8978214

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

REFLEXOLOGY

★★Feels Good 4127758★★

I-spa Ctland 9 Mkt 8160151

•Wizard Massage 4213197•

TUTORIAL LESSONS

DRUM LESSONS Home Service 6T 12Lessons 0917-5341060

LIGHT 5268216 / 5301315

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAID & YAYA 4386920

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

Best Driver Maid 4547542

Best Maid Yaya C-Giver 4384809

DIRECT MAIDS,YAYA, COOK 7289060

GOOD MAIDS YAYAS COOK W/ NBI #896-7402

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-2971

Low Rate Maid 9287096

NEED MAIDS 0915-5544777

PACIFIC: MAIDS, ETC SINCE 1948 T:7312672

BEST MAIDS 8294261

Trusted Maid Yaya 5343088

Trusted Maids Yaya Boy 7572089

WANTED EMPLOYERS NEEDING YAYA & MAID. CONTACT T-5799627 #12 SAN RAFAEL ST. PLAINVIEW, MANDALUYONG

WANTED YAYA & MAIDS 5786627

Yaya, Cook H'maid 8957507

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

Cheap 9260424/09272207969

L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

PASIG

PRIME PROPERTY
418sqm 5Dr 2Sty Apt. Infrnt of Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Pasig 09189422422•09178212826

OTHER PROVINCIAL

CEBU PROVINCE
Carcar Villadolid Nat'l Hi-way Vacant Lot 1 500 sqm Frontage 38M Near SMC Sales Office
Talisay Tabunok Talisay Hollow Block Subd Road Vacant Lot 878 sqm Frontage 22.06M Nr Sta Scholastica Elem Sch
Liloan Tayud Calarman Vacant Lot 31 202 sqm Frontage 156.92M Seafront Camotes Sea
CEBU CITY
Sambag I Alcantara St (P Del Rosario Ext) Cor Lot 3 233 sqm Frontage 44.75M Off N Bacalso Ave
Busay Vacant Lot 4 379 sqm Frontage 28.36M 8 Kms fr City Proper off Transcentral Hi-way
Off Gen Maxilom (Mango) Ave 17 442 sqm Frontage 14M F Ramos St w/ warehouse & 7 old houses Nr Velez Gen Hospital/St Theresa College
Rosal-Molave Sts 4 826 sqm Access to Molave 8M & to Rosal St 6M w/ office whse & resd'l bldg
Molave Ext 3 lots 3 462, 3 466 & 3 468 sqm Frontage 106M w/ residences Nr Cebu Business Park
5th Ave Cebu Reclamation Area Vacant Lot 876 sqm Frontage 24M Close to Transport Terminal
Busay Nivel Hills Vacant lot 15 868 sqm 6M right of way Behind Cebu Plaza Hotel
C Padilla St N Bacalso Ave 10 101 sqm Frontage to N Padilla St 91 26M & to S Expressway 38 39M Two (2) storey concrete bldg Nr CIT
M J Cuenco Ave Cor Lot 1 968 sqm Frontage 40.70M w/ Comm'l Multi-storey office bldg GFA 2800 sqm
M J Cuenco Ave Tutud St 7 512 sqm Frontage 92.80M w/ warehouses GFA 5000 sqm
M J Cuenco Ave Tejero Central 10 611 sqm w/ office whse GFA 4972 sqm
Cebu Port Area 12 602 sqm frontage 144M to Quezon Blvd two (2) storey concrete office GFA 1000 sqm
MANDAUE CITY
Off Nat'l Hi-way Vacant Lot 7 727 sqm. Nr SMC Complex
Along National Hi-way 7 168 sqm Frontage 103M w/ Showroom Nr SMC
DUMAGUETE CITY
Rizal Blvd Cor Lot 913 sqm Frontage 21M w/ commercial structure Nr Honeycone Tourist Inn
ILOILO CITY
Ortiz St Brgy Muelle Loney Lot 3 063 sqm Frontage 65.88M w/ resd'l house Nr. DTI
DAVAO CITY
Nat'l Hi-way Dumoy Vacant Lot 48 614 sqm Frontage 200M Nr Basuda Elem Sch
J P Laurel Ave Bajada Lot 2 835 sqm Frontage 35M Nr Davao Medical Ctr
Nat'l Hi-way Sasa 21 506 sqm w/ two (2) warehouses GFA 7520 sqm
J P Laurel Ave Bajada Cor Lot 28 397 sqm Nr Dwight Dunan Hotel & Recemptorist Church
BUKIDNON
Magsaysay St Maaybaay Vacant Lot 5 293 sqm Frontage 50.25M Parallel to National Highway
Makati : (02) 818-2781 / 751-5472
Cell : 0919-6745430
Cebu : (032) 255-9641

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

P1.1M 2br 2Stry 805-4686

READY FOR OCCUPANCY
LAS PINAS or BACOOR
Only P5,000 to reserve
No loan requirement
• 873-59-49 • 874-0487 •

MAKATI

MAKATI VILLAGES BEST BUY Investment 0918-9592979

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

MANILA

SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.376M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

STERLING INDUSTRIAL PARK
Meycauayan, Bulacan

STERLING TECHNOPARK
Carmona, Cavite

S.P. PROPERTIES, INC.

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

RSG GUEVENTHOMES

BACOOR only 10 mins from Bacleran!
as low as
P4,100/mo*
* Pag-IBIG Housing Loan
as low as P750T
30% D/P
Payable in easy installment
70% Balance thru In-House convertible to "Pag-IBIG Housing Loan
531-0395 • 531-1384
(0920) RSG HOME
(0920) 910 0000
Toll Free: 1-800-10 RSGHOME
www.guevent.com
other sites available
Cainta, Baguio, QC

HOUSE & LOT

PAYABLE THROUGH BANK, IN-HOUSE AND PAG-IBIG
"YOUR DREAM HOME AT A DREAM PRICE"
NOVALICHES, CALOOCAN & SAN JOSE BULACAN
4171637• 09184529306

PARANAQUE

Bung 3BR 3.8M accept terms T-8232765

Sucat 180m² 2stry 4BR 5TB Rooftop 2Grg Maids Rm Call 0920-9202839/843-1712

QUEZON CITY

FAIRVIEW 300m² 3BR 2TB P2.5M 0919-2123441

NR ARANETA CENTER/Makro (1)two stry hse, 2 bungalow LA302m² 0917-7499447

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1 LaFayette Sq P7.5M 6341212

1.1M C5 Nr The Fort
10T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

RENT TO OWN!
CONDO nr. Fort & Makati
2-4BR Fully Secured
16K monthly & 50K DP
Anne • (0920) 236-0929

CondoResort Nr D Fort Ayala Rent 2 Own 09178221107

RENT TO OWN!
15mins. fr. Mktl & D'Fort nr. C-5 2BR 48K move-in 16K/mo. RFO! • Ivy 0918-9384927

RESORT TYPE CONDO 2-4BR GlobalCT nrDport 1.0M Up Comp't Amenit's Rent2Own PG-IBG Ok! 09206348545

ROCKWELL RIZAL TOWER, 283SQM. 3BEDROOMS (ALL EN-SUITE), DESIGNER CONDO, 3 PARKING. MAID'S. FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED. CONTACT OWNER AT 09175303865

MANILA

NEAR LA SALLE
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge/deck P3.610M up 8903461

SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.375M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

CityLand Shaw 1BR 634-1212

New FA144 3BR 3TB P4.5M Very Near San Juan 7119051

PASIG

Class A bes. Makro Cainta tescorealty.com 09275337250

CAVITE

MANILA

BAYWATCH TOWER
M.H. Del Pilar St., Malate, Manila
(at the back of Chinese Embassy, Roxas Boulevard, Manila)

ENJOY THE MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF MANILA BAY
UNITS FOR SALE OR LEASE!
Furnished and Unfurnished
Pls. visit or call
5236640 / 5236630
AVAILABLE
Studio, 1, 2 and 3 BR
READY FOR OCCUPANCY

PASIG

ORTIGAS MANSION CONDO P200K-DP-move In P20K/mo. 0% interest 09184131377

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Condo 1.5M 9126976

EASTWOOD 2BR 3BA + Mds Rm + Lndry Rm 77m² Panoramic River View 24Hr Sec 4.7M neg 09184845443

New FA200 4BR 3TB P4.4M 2CG Teachers Vill 7119051

OWN AN EXECUTIVE STUDIO 2&3BR 10% MOVE-IN
PAY AS LOW AS P13,747.06
READY FOR OCCUPANCY
CALL NOW 7266453
LOOK FOR TESS D. LUGG

SAN JUAN

P2.4M QUADRILLON MANSION M. Paterno St. & N. Domingo San Juan Call Reynold @ CP# 0917-4327579

LOT

PARANAQUE

Sucat 4th Estate 120m² 715-8833

QUEZON CITY

LIBIS QC 204m² 6400544

OTHER AREAS

300m² 5Yrs 0% Int 6286238

RIZAL

540m² along Felix Ave Cainta Direct Buyer Only Call Tess Parayno 780-1594

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

LAGUNA

CALAMBA
National Hi-way Cor Lot Area 2,493 sqm. Front 51M SLEX Batangas Exit Beside Makiling Conference Center
Tels: 818-2781 / 751-5472
Cell: 0919-6745430

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

MARIMAR 3BR 2TB 2 C Grge nr SM Blc Wtr Ok 823-2885

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Mkt. Studio 45m²/2Br1Tb 65m² FreePrkg NoDue 8979417

ORIENTAL GARDEN CONDO 2BR, FF, Chino Roces Ave., Makati •0916-5063803•

QUEZON CITY

4rent 4BR 4TB w/Attic 2CGrg Bellevue Subd. nr. Grace H.S. 374-8832

TAGUIG

RENT TO OWN CONDO
Nr. Global City & D' Fort 50K-move in 17K/mo 09184131377

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

8th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao 3BR 2TB 15T Call 911-4510

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

Cubao fabshp 500m² 8974797

ROOM & BOARD

BF P'QUE P200l 8275345

Chin Hospital Mla 7118679

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

MAKATI

Mkt M/F P2.8up /Pkg 8906374

BEDSPACE

Male Pasay P1.5 5500254

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974797

BUSINESS RENTAL

BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA103, 75 & 50 m² 9289541 / 7361925 IDEAL FOR SPA GYM CALL CENTER

MALATE 3T/m²
Single Storey Commercial Bldg. 843-7633/37; 843-7539

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st class 62/129/148/185m² 8903461 loc. 34 or 19 olc hrs.

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

MAKATI

45.25 SQ METER 10AR 03 WITH PARKING BURGANDY CORP. TOWER BUENDIA AVE. MAKATI • RENT 15000/MO • •SALE 85000/SQ METER• NEGOTIABLE CONTACT: 8223759 POL POSIO 09189204540

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE
Jacinta Bldg. 2 (formerly 3M House)
EDSA, Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City

Ground Floor	385 sq.m.
Second Floor	575 sq.m.
Third Floor	454 sq.m.
Fourth Floor	454 sq.m.
Sixth Floor	454 sq.m.

Please call Tel. No. 882-1258/882-1213

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

Honda Civic VTIS 2001 A/T New Tires & Mags (Momo), 450T Call Mr. Edozie 427-8915 • 0915-5639302

NISSAN

RUSH! 01 Mdl Nissan Frontier P600T Neg w/Carry Boy 0919-8707359 • 0919-3552515

TOYOTA

95FX DUAL AIRCON 5K GAS P170K 0918-3382948

VOLVO

98 VOLVO S70
A/T 450T Rush Sale
0917-5383184

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

L300 • Urvan • Starex • MB100 • Vios • Altis 7268388

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

RENT A VAN 0917-5444721 / 6424405

REVO w/driver 9272821

ROLFE MULTILINES
RENT A VAN w/Drivers
Daytrips, Out of Town Trips
Aromatheraphy w/therapeutic benefits while driving 7510491
0917-8536992 / 0917-9820022

Toyco U Drive w/Driver All kinds cars vans SUV Dly. wk, mo. Rental 8023021-22 Cebu (032)3451802

ABC RENT A CAR
HI-ACE • STAREX
L300 • CRV • REVO
HONDA • VIOS • ALTIS • LYNX • CRLA
MLA : 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

26T New Compl Sr Impld 7767507

PETS

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL
TRAINS w/K9 PSYCHOLOGY Full Guarantee. T721-37-36

WANTED TO BUY

"PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE"
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
Hi-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

WE BUY
JEWELRY, DIAMONDS
ROLEX, PAWNTICKETS
& Other Swiss Watches Fast Cash
09163422208 • 09155547779

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

JAC FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP INC. 100 C. Palanca St. Quiapo, Manila will sell all unredeemed pledges for the months of AUG. & SEPT. 2004 on MARCH 16, 2005 at 2pm. J. Lanuza Auctioneer (PDI - FEBRUARY 23, 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **ZENON DEGUIA** settled by their heirs through an extrajudicial partion acknowledged before Notary Public Mary Elizabeth Bayhon City of Makati as per Doc. No. 310 on Page 100, Book IV Series of 2004.
(PDI - Feb. 9, 16 & 23, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEM CORP Official Receipt with series no. 509567 509570 509588 509599 445026 453020 453030 453018 453019 457470 transaction entered using above series will not be honored.

Notice is hereby given of the loss of ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEM CORP Official Receipt with series no. 509151-509200 transaction entered using above series will not be honored.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
FIELD OPERATIONS
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT NO. 1
ILOCOS TRAINING AND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
City of San Fernando, La Union
PHIC Accredited Healthcare Provider
website address: www.doh.gov.ph/itrmc • e-mail address: itrmc@digitelone.com
Tel. Nos. (072) 2425543 / 2425024 Telefax: (072) 888-36-71

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(Ref. No. IAEB-ITRMC-2005-001)

1. The ILOCOS TRAINING & REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER (ITRMC) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Suppliers/Manufacturers who are qualified to participate for the procurement of the goods below:
   a. IT Equipment (Mid-Range and Network Servers)
   b. Hospital Equipment Autoclave Machine (Re-bid), Hematocrit Centrifuge (Re-bid), Dental Unit & Chair
   c. Drugs/Medicines, Medical/Surgical Supplies, Laboratory Supplies, X-ray Supplies, Dental-Supplies, Office Supplies, Housekeeping/Laundry Supplies, and Printing Service (for the period July 2005 to December 2005)
2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and is restricted to organizations with at least 60% interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

   Submission of Documentary Requirements for Eligibility shall be from March 18, 2005 up to March 29, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. properly compiled and addressed to the ITRMC BAC Chairman
3. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC Secretariat from March 18 to 23 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00)* for items 1.a & 1.b above the *Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per category* for item 1.c above. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally
4. The ITRMC will hold a Pre-bidding Conference open to all interested parties at the ITRMC Conference Room on March 18, 2005, 9:00 a.m. Attendance to this conference is a pre-requisite to the participation in the bidding proper.
5. Bid submission and opening shall be on March 31, 2005, 9:00 a.m. at the ITRMC Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
6. The ITRMC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO A. VALDEZ, MD, FPCP, MA, MPA, Ed.D, PhD
Chief of Hospital III

(PDI - Feb. 23 & Mar. 2, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Quirino, Municipality of Diffun
Tel. No. (078) 694-70-77
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

February 23, 2005

Notice is hereby given that the Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agriculture-National Irrigation Administration, Quirino Provincial Irrigation Office and the Municipal Government of Diffun, Quirino is inviting prospective bidders/contractors from duly accredited Contractors of Inter-Agency Committee to apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the following locally funded projects under the Department of Agriculture-National Irrigation Administration (DA-NIA) under the Construction/Repair/Rehabilitation of New/Existing National Communal Irrigation Systems (RRENIS/CIS), to wit:

Contract No.	Contract Description	Approved Budget	Category
QPIO-LGU-01-05	Construction of CAMPAMENTO CIS	Php 3,212,425.77	Medium A
QPIO-LGU-02-05	Construction of LUTTUAD CIS	Php 596,571.27	Small B
QPIO-LGU-03-05	Construction of GABRIELA CIS	Php 3,350,190.78	Medium A
QPIO-LGU-04-05	Construction of AMUGAWEN CIS	Php 917,677.74	Small B
QPIO-LGU-05-05	Construction of DISINABA CIS	Php 917,743.74	Small B
QPIO-LGU-06-05	Construction of DUMANISI CIS	Php 6,884,081.54	Medium A

Minimum Required Equipment Per Project

No. of Units	Description	Capacity
1	Dump Truck	5.50 cubic meters Net Capacity
1	Cargo Truck	6.00 - 7.00 Tons
1	Crawler With Dozer	200 HP
1	Loader	1.45 cubic meters
1	Transit	
1	Level	

Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent and Contractor's Application for Eligibility	March 16, 2005 @ 5:00 PM
Deadline for Issuance of Bidding Documents	March 14-29, 2005 @ 5:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	March 31, 2005 @ 9:00 AM/Social Hall
Opening of Bids	April 14, 2005 @ 9:00 AM

General Conditions

1. Prospective bidders should secure and fill up the Information Sheet from the BAC Secretariat. Eligibility requirements in sealed envelopes, properly bound, with all contents numbered consecutively and signed by the prospective bidder or his duly authorized representative must be submitted to, The BAC Chairman Municipal Hall, Diffun, Quirino.
2. Unless otherwise indicated in the Instructions to Bidders or other bidding and contract documents, all particular relative to the procurement and contract implementation shall be governed by RA 9184 and its IRR-A
3. Bid documents will be issued to eligible bidders by the Office of the Bids Awards Committee, Municipal Hall, Diffun, Quirino upon payment of the non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (1,500.00)
4. The implementing agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ENGR. JESSIE L. GARCIA
BAC CHAIRMAN/MPDC

(PDI - February 23 & March 2, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

earnextranow.com code: atb2004 8531008 09178901851

L88EDC has TRANSFORMED & CHANGED the lives of many professionals into GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURS. www.L88edc.com

RTW Consign 09167940002

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

LICENSED PHARMACIST
6500 W/ FOOD
10 AM - 5 PM M-F ONLY
URGENT T-896470

MALE/FEMALE

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mol 8922818

RIZAL EXPERIMENTAL STATION AND
PILOT SCHOOL OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES
Maybunga, Pasig City

List of Vacant Positions

(1) Teacher III; SG-12; Item No. 30348; Bachelor of Secondary Education or Bachelor's Degree Plus 18 professional units in Education with appropriate major preparation; two years of teaching experience; Eligibility: LET

(1) Teacher I; SG-10; Item No. 54191; Bachelor of Secondary Education or Bachelor's Degree plus 18 professional units in Education with appropriate major preparation; No experiences required. Eligibility: LET

(1) Guidance Counselor I; SG-10; Item No. GUIDC1-30001; Educ. Qual.: Bachelor's Degree Relevant to the job; Exp. None required Eligibility. Eligibility: Career Service (Prof.) Second Level Eligibility.

WANTED

1) Mechanical Engineer Graduate
2) Accounting Graduate
3) Scheduling Officer – Male Engineering Graduate or Accounting Graduate

Apply at:
SANTRANS CORP.
Blk. 5 Lot 5 Mountain Heights Subd.,
Pangarap Village, Caloocan City
939-3239

R.A. Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
PROVINCE OF QUEZON
Municipality of Perez

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that FE REA DEL MORO has filed with this Office a petition for change first name from EFEMIA to FE in the birth certificate of EFEMIA REA who was born on Sept. 21, 1955 at Perez, Quezon and whose parents are Felipe Rea and Felipa Leonar.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than March 7. 2005.

(Sgd.) ESTELA S. MANZANO
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI – Feb. 23, 2005)

RUSH SALE

Office Condo Unit
Cityland Condominium 10
Tower I, Unit 2414,
20th Floor
6815 Ayala Avenue,
Makati City
Floor Area –
65.56 square meters
Please call or text
Ms. Edith Dychao
0917-8980588

FOR SALE

(AS IS WHERE IS)

DAY SPA EQUIPMENT AND
FURNITURE (GOOD CONDITION)
CONTACT: MARC 818-3601
loc. 3105/3110
1999 BLACK
HONDA C70 A/T MOTORCYCLE
CONTACT:
Marie or Manny 818-3601

House and Lot

(930 square meters)

located in Parañaque City;
20 minutes drive
to Makati CBD
and Fort Global;
for inquiries, please text
or call 09173230637

SPEAK ENGLISH?

Put your communication
skills to better use.
Only in **SYKES.**

ENGLISH COMMUNICATION MANAGER

- Must possess a university degree in any of the following fields: Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), English Language, Linguistics, Speech or Communications. Masteral Degree in TESL or corresponding Certification from a recognized institution is preferred.
- Must have at least 5 years of relevant ESL teaching experience gained through project-led facilitation, program planning, design and implementation, preferably in a business environment.
- Must have supervised a minimum of five (5) staff for at least three (3) years
- A native speaker of English

MAKATI
26/F Robinsons Summit Center
6783 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1226

34/F Burgundy Corporate Tower
252 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City 1200

CEBU
KRC Commercial Building 1
National Highway, Subangdaku
Mandaue City, Cebu 6014

For inquiries, please call:
Manila (02) 817-8781
Cebu (032) 348-9898

ORTIGAS
HR RECRUITMENT OFFICE
19/F One San Miguel Avenue Building
San Miguel Avenue corner Shaw Boulevard
Pasig City 1600

Submit your resumé at HRD@man.ph.sykes.com or visit us at our HR Recruitment office.

SYKES. The officially recognized pioneer in the Philippine call center industry.

SYKES

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development Bicol
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City

February 4, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

No. 2005-05

PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS MEDICAL, SURGICAL, AND DENTAL SUPPLIES

1. The Bicol Medical Center (BMC), through the General Appropriations Act of 2005 intends to apply the sum of ELEVEN MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY FOUR & 40/100 (P11, 803, 734.40). chargeable against the Government of the Philippines (GOP) Funds for the Procurement of Various Medical, Surgical, Dental Supplies.
2. The Bicol Medical Center (BMC) now invites sealed Bids from eligible suppliers/manufacturers and exclusive distributors who are qualified to participate for the Procurement of Various Medical, Surgical and Dental Supplies. Copies of the List of Various Medical, Surgical and Dental and Supplies, with specifications and quantities are available at the BAC Secretariat c/o Supply Section, Bicol Medical Center, Naga City
3. Delivery of the aforesaid goods shall be within *FIFTEEN (15) working days* upon receipt of the approved Purchase Orders (POs). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Clause 5, Section I, Instruction to Bidders.
4. Eligibility of Prospective Bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), *The Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA)*, and is open to all organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process for eligibility check is described in Clause 12 Section II of the Instructions to Bidders. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and the Purchase Order (PO) awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, provided the Bidder concerned passes the post qualification process.
5. Interested Bidders who wish to inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain further information should contact the BAC Secretariat c/o Supply Section, Bicol Medical Center, Naga City, telephone No. 473-2334; 473-8936. from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, from February 16 to March 1, 2005, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) and submission of a written application to the following address:

   Dr. RODOLFO C. URSUA
   Chairman
   Bids and Awards Committee
   Bicol Medical Center
   Naga City
7. The BMC shall hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties, on March 1, 2005 at 9:00 a.m., at the Library, Bicol Medical Center, Naga City.
8. Bids must be delivered to the above address on March 16, 2005 not later than 9:00 a.m., at the Auditorium. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the approved budget, in any of the following forms/terms:
   a) Cash, certified check, cashier's/manager's check, Bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit - One Percent (1%)
   b) Bank Guarantee - One & a Half Percent (1-1/2%)
   c) GSIS Surety Bond – Two & a Half Percent (2-1/2%)
9. The BMC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to issuance of Purchase Order (PO) without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd) RODOLFO C. URSUA, MD, FPCS, FPUA
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb 17 & 23, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD Ref No.: PB0505111-EL0004
PR No. ATO-05-008916

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR CORPORATE TRANSCO,** wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

Supply and Delivery of Spare Parts for BK-117 C1 Helicopter

ABC: P4,862,100.00

1. Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting **February 16, 2005 to March 15, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
2. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **10:00 a.m. of March 16, 2005** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the new deadline for submisson shall be announced through a Bid Bulletin. Submission of documents must be clear, legible and readable. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
3. Pre-bid conference will be held on **March 4, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
4. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
5. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
6. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb: 17 & 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development No. 8
EASTERN VISAYAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
Tacloban City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Department of Health (DOH), through the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC) Hospital Bids and Awards Committee (HBAC) hereby invites sealed bids for **MEDICAL, SURGICAL, DENTAL, LABORATORY, RADIOLOGY SUPPLIES, DRUGS AND MEDICINES; OFFICE, HOUSEKEEPING, MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT** for the hospital.

Bid documents can be secured by qualified participants from the Hospital Bids and Awards Committee (HBAC) through Mrs. Resurrection M. Daa, Chief Nurse, Head, HBAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) for the bid forms.

Pre-bid Conference, dropping and opening of bids will be held at the EVRMC Chief of Hospital's Conference Room, Tacloban City on the following dates.

1) Pre-Bid Conference, March 22, 2005 at *9:00 a.m.
2) Deadline for dropping and opening of bidders' eligibility requirements/eligibility check (no price tenders) April 1, 2005 *9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
3) Product sample evaluation April 4 to 6, 2005 *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
4) Deadline for dropping and opening of bids:
   a. Drugs and medicines - April 12, 2005 not later than *2:00 p.m.
   b. Radiology, Laboratory supplies and reagents - April 13, 2005 not later than *2:00 p.m.
   c. Medical, Surgical, Dental supplies - April 14, 2005 not later than *2:00 p.m.
   d. Housekeeping, Maintenance, Office supplies and Hospital Equipment - April 15, 2005 not later than *2:00 p.m

A bidder's bond in the form of cash or Manager's Check in an amount equivalent to 1% of the approved budget for the contract must accompany each bid.

For particulars, please see Dr. Pablo B. Aniceto, Jr., Chairman, HBAC with telephone number 321-3363. EVRMC Tacloban City.

(Sgd.) PABLO B. ANICETO, JR., M.D.
Chief, Medical Professional Staff
Chairman, Hospital Bids and Awards Committee

Noted by

(Sgd.) ADELAIDA AMARGA-ASPERIN, MD, MHA
Chief of Hospital III
Head, Procuring Entity

*Reference time - hospital bundy clock

(PDI - Feb. 16 & 23, 2005)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on: July 26, 2004

05-IJG-001
Annual HOR Health Care Program for the FY 2005
House of Representatives, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The House of Representatives, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	**Annual House of Representatives Health Care Program for the Year 2005**
Location	House of Representatives, Constitution Hills, Quezon City
Brief Description	Comprehensive Health Maintenance Service Program for Members of the House of Representatives, House Officials and Permanent Rank and File Employees
Approved Budget for the Contract	P13,651,535.25
Contract Duration	April 1, 2005 - December 31, 2005
Delivery Period	April 1, 2005 - December 31, 2005

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Feb. 16 - Feb. 24, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	February 28, 2005
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements; Technical and Financial Proposals/Opening of Eligibility, Technical and Financial Envelopes	March 14, 2005
4. Bid Evaluation	March 14, 2005
5. Post-qualification	March 21, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Seven Thousand Pesos only** (P7,000.00) to the House of Representatives Cashier.

The complete set of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents may be obtained at the (Bids and Awards Committee-Secretariat) Office of the Procurement and Supply Management Service, South Wing Extension, c/o Mr. Dominador M. Gamboa, BAC-Secretariat Head (Tel. Nos. 931-5683 & 931-5001 loc. 7523 & 7398). Eligibility documents, technical and financial proposals shall be placed in separate and marked sealed envelopes addressed to Atty. Leonardo B. Palicte III, Bids and Awards Committee Chairman, c/o the BAC-Secretariat and dropped in the bid box located at the Conference Room, Deputy Secretary General for Internal Audit, South Wing Basement, House of Representatives, National Government Center, Commission Hills, Quezon City. Deadline of submission and receipt of sealed bids shall be on Monday, March 14, 2005 at 2:00 p.m

The House of Representatives assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by

(Sgd.) ATTY. LEONARDO B. PALICTE III
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Feb 16 & 23, 2005 *Second Invitation*)

UCPB
www.ucpb.com

Notice of Deferment
UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK
Annual Stockholders Meeting

Notice is hereby given that in view of the unresolved cases still pending before the Sandiganbayan, the Board of Directors of UCPB has decided to defer the regular annual stockholders meeting of the bank, scheduled on March 1, 2005.

(Sgd) Atty. Jose A. Barcelon
Corporate Secretary

(PDI – Feb. 23, 2005)

JOB Market ONLINE
VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com
JOB Market

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8978425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
Memorial · Crematorium
"The newest and most modern Funeral Home & Crematory in the country!
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38
Direct Line: (632) 845-2440

Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

Dr. Ismael "Maeng" Arbias Corral

August 11, 1929 – February 22, 2005

Now Peacefully rests in the infinite Grace
and Goodness of the Lord.

His loving wife: **Erlinda Alejo Mathay-Corral,**

His loving children; **Dr. Rolando** & fiancée Nadine Tengco, (Bahamas), **Dr. Sharleen** & Mayor Dan Neri Lim (Tagbilaran City, Bohol), **Cecilia** & Dr.Guy Maclang, (Savannah, Georgia), **Dr. Melissa** & Dr. Jose Wigan Dalugdug, (Jacksonville, Florida) and loving grandchildren; Dan Ismael, Gloria Gail, Seg Charlie Anton. Kyle, Neil, Justin, Francheska & Andrei; loving sisters and brother; Asuncion (†), Encarnacion, Leonor (†), Raquel, Lilia, Ezequiel (†) and Maria; and loving nieces and nephews.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Homes, Premiere I Chapel, Guadalupe.

Interment will be on Friday, February 25, 2005 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the farewell service at 8:00 am, Pasay Adventist Church, 2059 Donada St., Pasay City.

ENGR. PABLO STA. MARIA CAPISTRANO

Former President, Philippine Society of Mining
& Metallurgical Engineers
Former President, Philippine Geological Society
Former Member, Board of Examiners for Mining Engineering

Died in the Grace of our Lord
and joined his beloved wife ***Laura***
on February 22, 2005 at the age of 91.

His children **Purisima** & **Ramon Laconico**, **Rachel** & **Carlos Gutierrez**, **Zorayda Amelia** & **Ruperto Alonzo**, **Natividad**, **Renato** & **Rosario**, **Manuel**, **Nina** & **Kendal Baker**; his grandchildren **Yvonne** & **Steve**, **Ramon**, **Nikki** and **Samantha**; **Carmen**, **Carlos** and **Pablo**; **Lara**, **Carlo** & **Hiyas**; **John Pablo**, **Tina** and **Tricia**; **Pablo** & **Danielle**, **Melissa** and **Amanda** (†); **Paolo** and **Lia**; **Phoebe** and **Julia**; his great-grandchildren **Sofie** and **Vanessa**; **Sofia**; **Gabriel** and **Mikhail**

request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul. His body lies in state at Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills. He will make a final visit to his home in Marungko, Angat, Bulacan on Saturday, February 26, 2005 where a 10:00 a.m. Mass will be held at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

Interment will be on the same day, Saturday, after the 4:00 p.m. Funeral Mass at the Garden of Salvation, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

Luis "Louie" Bautista Feliciano

Peacefully joined his Creator
on February 19, 2005 at the age of 73.

His beloved wife, **Dolly**; children **Tet**, **Gabby** and **Des**, **Rolly** and **Beth**, **Jaypee**, **Jessica** and **Gino**, **Malu** and **Mike**, **Julie**, **Dennis** and **Cathy**, **David**; grandchildren **Mark** and **Melanie**, **Dale**, **Pio**, **Cathy**, **Louise**, **Geli**, **Yani**, **Joaquin**, **Moosey**, **Francis**, **Oyo**, **Bettina**, **Diego**, **Migi**, **Cayo**, **Pare**, **Maxine**, **Chloe**, **Andre** and **Coby**, and other loved ones request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Acacia Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, inside Manila Memorial.

Interment will be on Friday, February 25, 2005 at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Quezon City afte the 9:00 a.m. Mass in Manila Memorial.

In Loving Memory
On the 10th Death Anniversary of

VALERIANO "DANNY" L. FLORO

May 16, 1923 – February 24, 1995

For his memory, Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, Thursday, February 24 at the following churches:

Danny Floro Mausoleum, Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite	10:00 AM
St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City	6:00 PM
St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City	6:30 PM
Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 PM
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Magallanes Village, Makati City	6:00 PM
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong, MM	7:00 AM
Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows Ave., Quezon City	6:00 PM
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 PM
Immaculate Concepcion Parish, Pasig City	6:00 AM
San Antonio Abad Parish, Stella Maris, Maybunga, Pasig City	6:00 AM/6:30 PM
Immaculate Concepcion Parish, Antipolo Cathedral	6:00 AM
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, Plaza Miranda, Quiapo	6:00 AM

His loving wife **Angelina**; children **Tessie & Gil Balaguer, David & Jenny Floro, Sheba & Noe Tanjuakio** and **Valerie & Benny Herbosa**; grandchildren, great grandchildren and relatives request the readers, especially those whose lives he had touched, to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

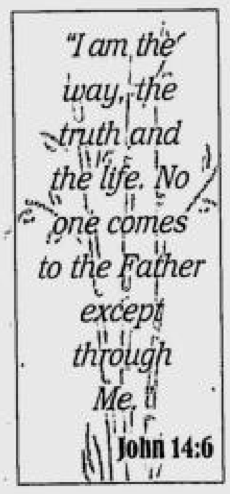
MESSAGE OF THANKS
from the family of the late

SIR KNIGHT RUFINO (RUFING) J. REYES

President and CEO
of Balanga Rural Bank, Inc.

For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrows. For praying with us and for us. For the beautiful flowers for compassion. For thinking of us in our hour of grief. For attending the services and funeral rites. For all that you have done to console our hearts.

Our sincerest gratitude.



"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

In Loving Memory of

Vicente "Bing" S. Marabut

August 24, 1957 - February 21, 2005

He is survived by his loving wife **Victoria Aranzaso Marabut** and his two daughters, **Thea** and **Issa**; his bereaved mother **Emma Marabut**, he has joined his deceased father **Miguel Jose Marabut**; also survived by his brothers and sisters, Cindy, Serafin, Victoria and Ramon; his nephews and nieces, his grandchildren, his friends, and his brothers at the Alpha Phi Omega and Scout Royal Brothers.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel in Guadalupe.

Interment will be at the Loyola Crematorium on February 25, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

Today, February 23, 2005
Our Brother

"Manny"

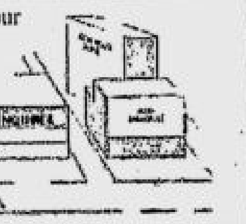
EMMANUEL BERNARDEZ ASTUDILLO

February 23, 1955 – February 2, 1977
Would have been 50 years old

We request his relatives, friends and readers to remember him in their prayers today.

Father: **Domingo B. Astudillo** (deceased); mother: **Pacita B. Astudillo**; brothers: **Edgar, Enrico, Elito, Ephrain**; sisters: **Evelyn, Elnora**; children: **Christine, Sir Emmanuel/Pingkoy**

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS
Mandaluyong branch is open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.
MANDALUYONG BRANCH
SM MEGAMALL 5TH LEVEL BLDG B EDSA
TEL. NO.: 636-0219 / 637-2008
Contact Persons:
Joy, Arnold, Randy & Amel



MESSAGE OF THANKS

We are celebrating today the 40th day of the passing on to eternal life of our beloved

SERAFIN "Dodo" ESTEVANEZ GARCIA

The family would like to thank all relatives and friends, especially the Ateneo High School Class '67, Beta Rho Omega Fraternity, officers and staff of PNOC-EDC and PDIC, Bethesda Springs of Hope Healing Ministry and to all those who gave us comfort during our time of sorrow by offering Holy Masses, prayers, flowers, mass cards and donations, as well as by sharing love and beautiful memories as Dodo made his final journey to meet his Creator.

"The Lord is my Shepherd, There is nothing I shall want." Psalm 23

Our dearly beloved Mommy

HIGINIA ERICTA LLANTADA

Peacefully joined our Lord and our Dad, Antonio T. Llantada on February 20, 2005 at the age of 87.

Her children Jay and Techie, Vicky and Henrik Mauritsen, Tony and Cynthia, and Bobby; loving grandchildren Martin and Thomas, Angelique and Makko; sister Natividad E. Blas; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita Parish Church, Philam Homes, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 26, 2005 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

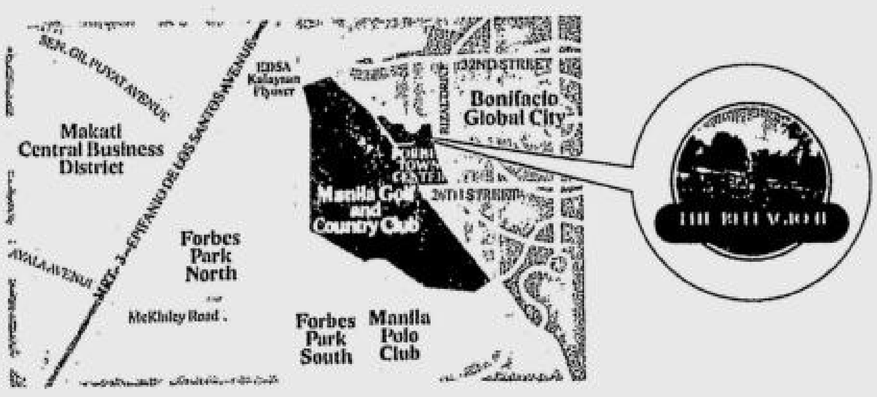
THE BELLAGIO II
GOLF VIEW RESIDENCES

Fronting Manila Golf & Country Club

Architect's perspective of Forbes Town Road

Home
Is Where the Fun Is

At the Bellagio II, an outdoor leisure extravaganza is at the heart of your indulgent lifestyle. And it's literally on your doorstep. Something hits the senses in every direction: restaurants, cafés, shops, a tree-lined promenade, landscaped plazas. Wander at will or follow your nose to the places that serve menus from the East and the West. Browse the shops bursting with delightful surprises. Or linger over cappuccino in an outdoor café. After work, head for an upscale bar and mix sumptuous food with chill-out jazz. Anytime you feel like having a good time, leave your car keys behind. At the Bellagio II, fun is a dish served again and again.


SEN. GIL PUYAT AVENUE
EDSA Kalayaan Flyover
32ND STREET
Bonifacio Global City
Makati Central Business District
EPIFANIO DE LOS SANTOS AVENUE
Manila Golf and Country Club
26TH STREET
AYALA AVENUE
Forbes Park North
McKinley Road
Forbes Park South
Manila Polo Club
THE BELLAGIO II

A Luxury Residential Development of:

BONIFACIO WEST
BONIFACIO WEST DEVELOPMENT CORP

and

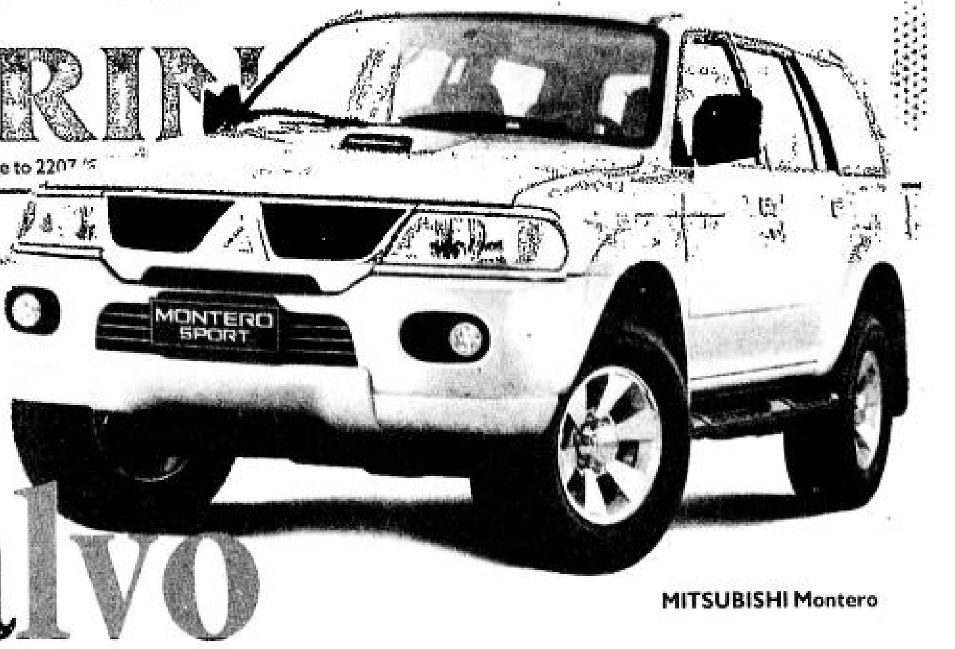
MEGAWORLD CORPORATION
www.megaworldcorp.com
ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFIED

For inquiries, please call us at
816-2768 • 816-3520 • 816-3517
Forbes Town Center Showroom, 26th Street corner Rizal Drive, Crescent Park West District, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila
Fax: (632) 816-2514 • E-mail: sales@megaworldcorp.com

For Announcement Purposes Only

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
C1
E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
MOTORIN
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Text us your feedback: Inquirer mtr name/city/message to 2207

Automakers lure buyers with 1st quarter salvo



MITSUBISHI Montero

By Tessa R. Salazar

A SMORGASBORD of vehicle launches starts 2005 for automakers hopeful that more Filipinos are up to buying new cars before the long Lenten break sets in.

In the middle of the first quarter alone, the market has seen the introduction of a medium-sized passenger sedan, multipurpose vans, a sports utility vehicle and a spanking new headquarters for an automaker. Add to this flurry are promos left and right. Automakers are laying out their cards this early.

New headquarters

French carmaker Peugeot boasts of new headquarters and showroom at Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City (to be manned by exclusive Peugeot distributor AutoFrance Philippines Inc). It doesn't stop there. It also brings in two new vehicles and reintroduces two more.

The "big bro" of European bestseller Peugeot 307, the multipurpose 307SW variant was recently made available in the Philippines via AutoFrance Philippines. The 307SW is based on an extended 307 hatchback platform.

It can seat five people (but AutoFrance says it can accommodate two more, but you have to buy the two additional rear seats).

Powered by a 2-liter 16-valve electronic multipoint injection engine with a torque of 190 Nm at 4,100 rpm, the 307SW has 4-speed autoadaptive transmission with Tiptronic Porsche system that features a sport setting and shift lock.

The 307SW's intro price is P1,550,000. Also introduced is Peugeot 807, a multipurpose 8-seater vehicle. This one is powered by a 2-liter, 16-valve auto adaptive electronic multipoint injection engine with Tiptronic Porsche transmission. Its intro price is P2.4 million.

CHEVROLET Lumina

Let there be light

Inspired by the public's warm reception for its Chevy Optra, General Motors Automobiles Philippines brings in a 2.5-liter sedan with another Chevrolet badge.

The Chevrolet Lumina is expected to compete head-to-head with its competitors in the luxury sedan category. The Lumina (literally meaning "light"), with its V6 engine, 152 hp and 209 Nm torque with standard 4-speed automatic transmission, is described by its makers as conservatively styled yet superior in its engineering. GM claims that Lumina's edge over competitors is its no-noise, no-bounce ride for passengers. Its introductory price is P1,290,000.

Tamaraw Revo replacement

A new multipurpose vehicle to replace Toyota Tamaraw and the Revo is already here. Its name is Innova.

Toyota says the Innova line is part of its global strategy for new engines, new designs in frame and suspension. The Innova features a 2.5-L D-4D common rail turbo diesel engine with a power rating of 102 Ps/3,600 rpm. It also has a 2-liter VVT-I gasoline engine version with up to 136 ps/5,600 rpm.

The 8-seater Innova is MP3-enabled and has an in-dash CD stereo head unit with a premium 6-speaker setup. Its front suspension is independent coil spring double wishbone with stabilizer, while the rear is 4-link coil springs.

The G-variant diesel engine goes for P1,030,000 for the automatic and P965,000 for the manual. The 2-liter VVT-I gasoline variant is priced at P970,000 for the A/T. The E variant diesel is priced at P865,000 for M/T and the J variant diesel goes for P768,000 and the 2-liter VVT-I gas at P718,000.

MPV, SUV

Not to be left behind is Mitsubishi. It launched a multipurpose van and a 4x4 sport utility vehicle on Jan. 28.

Grandis, a multipurpose van, is also called the New Space Wagon (a replacement of the Space Wagon). It is equipped with four-speed Invecs II with sportronic transmission.

It can seat seven and is powered by 2.4-liter Mivec with 165 ps. Priced at P1,480,000, it's a completely built-up unit that comes from Thailand.

Montero Sport is a five-seater 4x4 sport utility vehicle powered by a 2.8 turbocharged intercooled diesel engine. It's a four-speed automatic. Priced at P1,580,000, this is a CBU from Japan.

Both have three-year 100,000 warranty, antilock brake system and airbags. Both were launched on Jan. 28.

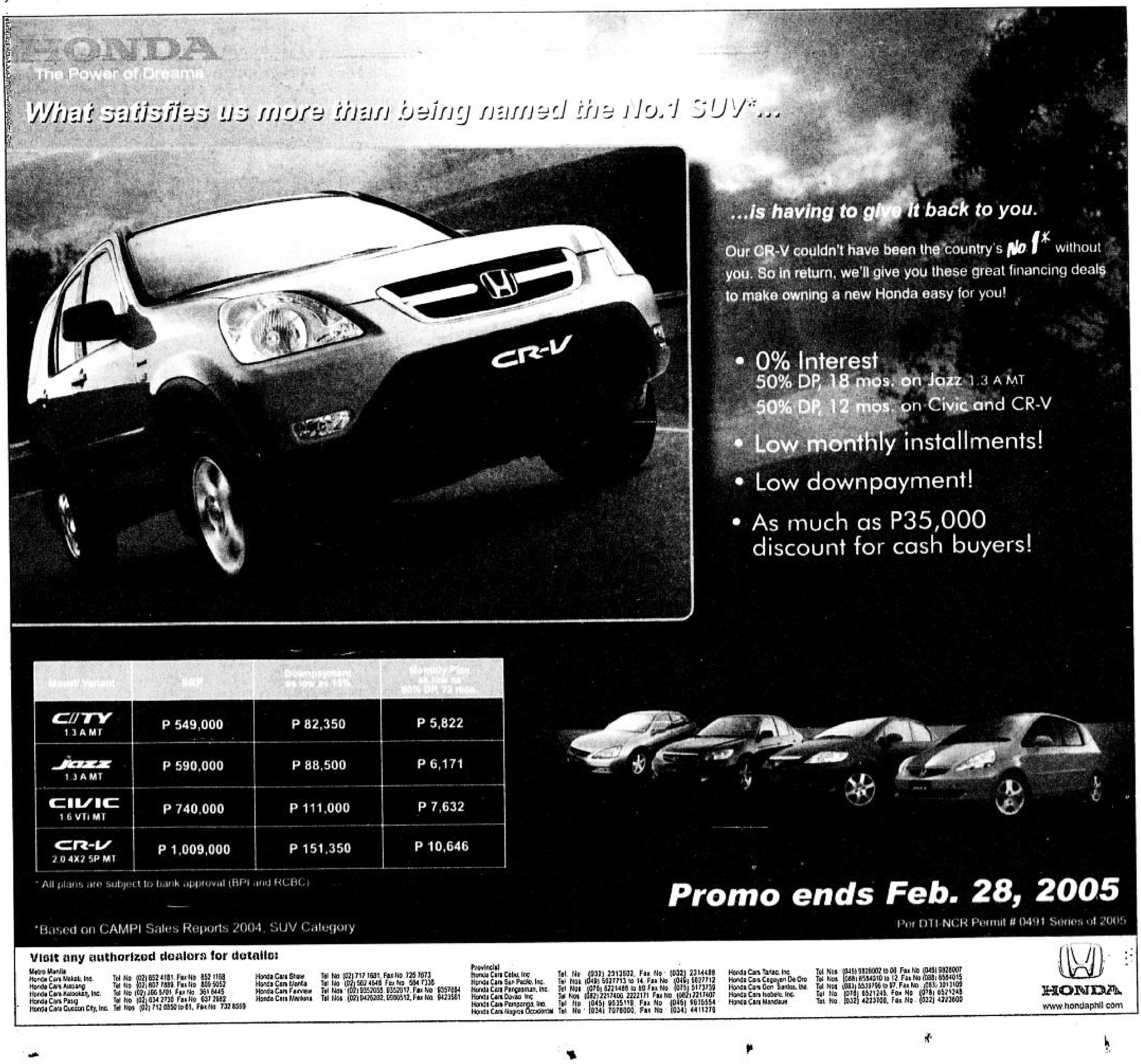
Tech lovers

For the tech lovers, there's the 1.6-liter compact Peugeot 307 flaunted as having a "multiplexed" system that gets rid of the spaghetti-like mess of electrical connections in a modern car. Its network links all components over a single circuit called a "bus," but would you really care how it all looks like inside? Anyway, its maker attests to this intelligent car with its intelligent service indicator, emergency braking indicator and "multiplexing" that records all break-in attempts.

The 307 is priced at P995,000 for the M/T and P1,095,000 for the A/T.

Transforming itself from a coupé to a cabriolet is the Peugeot 206cc with its structural and retractable roof system. The 1.6-liter engine purportedly generates max power of 127hp at 5,750 rpm and max torque of 147Nm at 3,900 rpm. The automatic variant is equipped with a Tiptronic Porsche gearbox. The 206cc has four-disc brakes, front pair ventilated. This car belongs to those who have P1.750 million to spare.

Note: Curious about how Lumina looks like? Visit GM Autoworld Makati, Quezon Avenue, Shaw, Pasig, Chevrolet Alabang, Chevrolet North Edsa, Pampanga, GM Autoworld Cebu or Chevrolet Davao. Want to take a look at Peugeot cars? Visit the Peugeot showroom at 315 G. Puyat, Makati (via Lion Motors Inc.); Ortigas (O.N. Asia Premier Car Inc. Opal Road cor. ADB Avenue), Cebuano Motors Corp., 21 AS Fortuna St. Banilad, Mandaue City.



HONDA
The Power of Dreams

What satisfies us more than being named the No.1 SUV*...

...is having to give it back to you.

Our CR-V couldn't have been the country's No.1* without you. So in return, we'll give you these great financing deals to make owning a new Honda easy for you!

- 0% Interest
  50% DP, 18 mos. on Jazz 1.3 A MT
  50% DP, 12 mos. on Civic and CR-V
- Low monthly installments!
- Low downpayment!
- As much as P35,000 discount for cash buyers!

Model/ Variant	SRP	Downpayment as low as 15%	Monthly Plan as low as 50% DP, 72 mos.
CITY 1.3 A MT	P 549,000	P 82,350	P 5,822
Jazz 1.3 A MT	P 590,000	P 88,500	P 6,171
CIVIC 1.6 VTi MT	P 740,000	P 111,000	P 7,632
CR-V 2.0 4X2 5P MT	P 1,009,000	P 151,350	P 10,646

* All plans are subject to bank approval (BPI and RCBC)

*Based on CAMPI Sales Reports 2004, SUV Category

Promo ends Feb. 28, 2005

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0491 Series of 2005

Visit any authorized dealers for details:

Metro Manila
Honda Cars Makati, Inc. Tel No (02) 852 4181, Fax No 852 1168
Honda Cars Alabang Tel No (02) 807 7889, Fax No 809 5052
Honda Cars Kalookan, Inc. Tel No (02) 366 5701, Fax No 361 6445
Honda Cars Pasig Tel No (02) 634 2730 Fax No 637 2682
Honda Cars Quezon City, Inc. Tel Nos (02) 712 0350 to 61, Fax No 732 8559
Honda Cars Shaw Tel No (02) 717 1681, Fax No 725 7673
Honda Cars Manila Tel No (02) 562 4648 Fax No 584 7336
Honda Cars Fairview Tel Nos (02) 9352055, 9352017, Fax No 9357684
Honda Cars Marikina Tel Nos (02) 9420202, 9080512, Fax No 9423561

Provincial
Honda Cars Cebu, Inc Tel No (032) 2313502, Fax No (032) 2314488
Honda Cars San Pablo, Inc. Tel Nos (049) 5627713 to 14, Fax No (049) 5627712
Honda Cars Pangasinan, Inc. Tel Nos (075) 5221488 to 89 Fax No (075) 5173739
Honda Cars Davao Inc Tel Nos (082) 2217400, 2222171 Fax No (082) 2217407
Honda Cars Pampanga, Inc. Tel No (045) 9635118, Fax No (045) 9635554
Honda Cars Negros Occidental Tel No (034) 7078000, Fax No (034) 4411276
Honda Cars Tarlac, Inc. Tel Nos (045) 9828002 to 06 Fax No (045) 9828007
Honda Cars Cagayan De Oro Tel Nos (088) 8584010 to 12, Fax No (088) 8584015
Honda Cars Gen. Santos, Inc. Tel Nos (083) 5535756 to 57, Fax No (083) 3013109
Honda Cars Isabela, Inc. Tel No (078) 6521245, Fax No (078) 6521248
Honda Cars Mandaue Tel No (032) 4223700, Fax No (032) 4223600

HONDA
www.hondaphil.com

Discovering Samal aboard the Sportivo

UP TO THE CHALLENGE: Isuzu Sportivo is ready to face the AUV competition.

INSIDE, the Sportivo is a complete entertainment package (note the map lamp-mounted IR sensor for the headphones).

Text and photos
by Charles E. Buban

MORE and more people are visiting the province of Davao del Norte and discovering the secrets of its newest travel destination, the Island Garden City of Samal, less than a kilometer from Davao City.

There's something extra special about arriving to this island of about 90,000 inhabitants.

Taking the 15-minute ferry ride from Davao City's Sasa Warf, friendly faces with inquiring eyes greeted our group (composed of Isuzu Philippines executives and Manila-based motoring media personalities) at the island's Babak seaport.

They must be wondering what our convoy of sparkling new gold, green and black Sportivos would be doing the rest of the weekend.

Preparation

Proceeding to the island's most famous beach resort (that's Pearl Farm), the participants took advantage of the day's relaxed itinerary to loll around or enjoy the resort's amenities (scuba diving, jet skiing, etc.) in preparation for the next day.

The next day is the busiest part of the Isuzu "Sportivo Sojourn in the Island Garden City of Samal" event as we were to drive the Sportivo in over 150 km of varied off-road terrain.

"One reason is to discover Samal's other interesting destinations (like Hagimit Falls and Tambo Bat Cave) and the other is to discover the variations that make the Sportivo on top of Isuzu's Crosswind Asian utility vehicle lineup," explained IPC corporate business division VP Art Balmadrid.

Same 2.5 diesel engine

Although powered by the same 2.5 diesel engine and four-speed automatic transmission that is in the XUVi automatic variant, the Sportivo features a much-improved exterior features and interior amenities.

"The Sportivo is readily identifiable through its redesigned facia: six-hole radiator grille design, large one-piece multireflector headlamp and combination lamps, circular-type fog lamps and large two-piece front bumper," said Balmadrid.

On top, the Sportivo is fitted with a matte black roof rail with middle leg while the chrome signal lamps are equipped with Led signal lamps.

The wheels are equipped with six-spoke, chrome-finish alloy (as against the hyper silver finish alloy of XUVi variant) mag wheels.

At the back, the Sportivo sports a new third brake lamp with chrome garnish, spare tire cover with decal and a new rear combination lamps design were added.

Bucket seats

While rounding the scenic coastline of the island, one can appreciate the latest changes made by Isuzu inside the Sportivo.

"As one would notice, the front row is now equipped with bucket seats (the first and second row seats are also 30 mm thicker) while the third row now faces front," said Milton Liu, president of Isuzu Davao, who helped arranged the itinerary in the island.

Another addition to the entertainment package is the AV input jacks with power inverter (to let you play your favorite video games via the headrest-mounted LCD monitors. Another extra is the infrared headphone system.

Just like in the XUVi variant, the Sportivo offers a total entertainment package with its JVC single in-dash DVD, VCD, MP3 and CD audio player with remote control.

Improved suspension

Beginning with all its 2005 edition Crosswinds, Isuzu now fitted all its AUVs with the Flex Ride rear suspension system.

The difference is quite noticeable during our rough and tumble drives around the island.

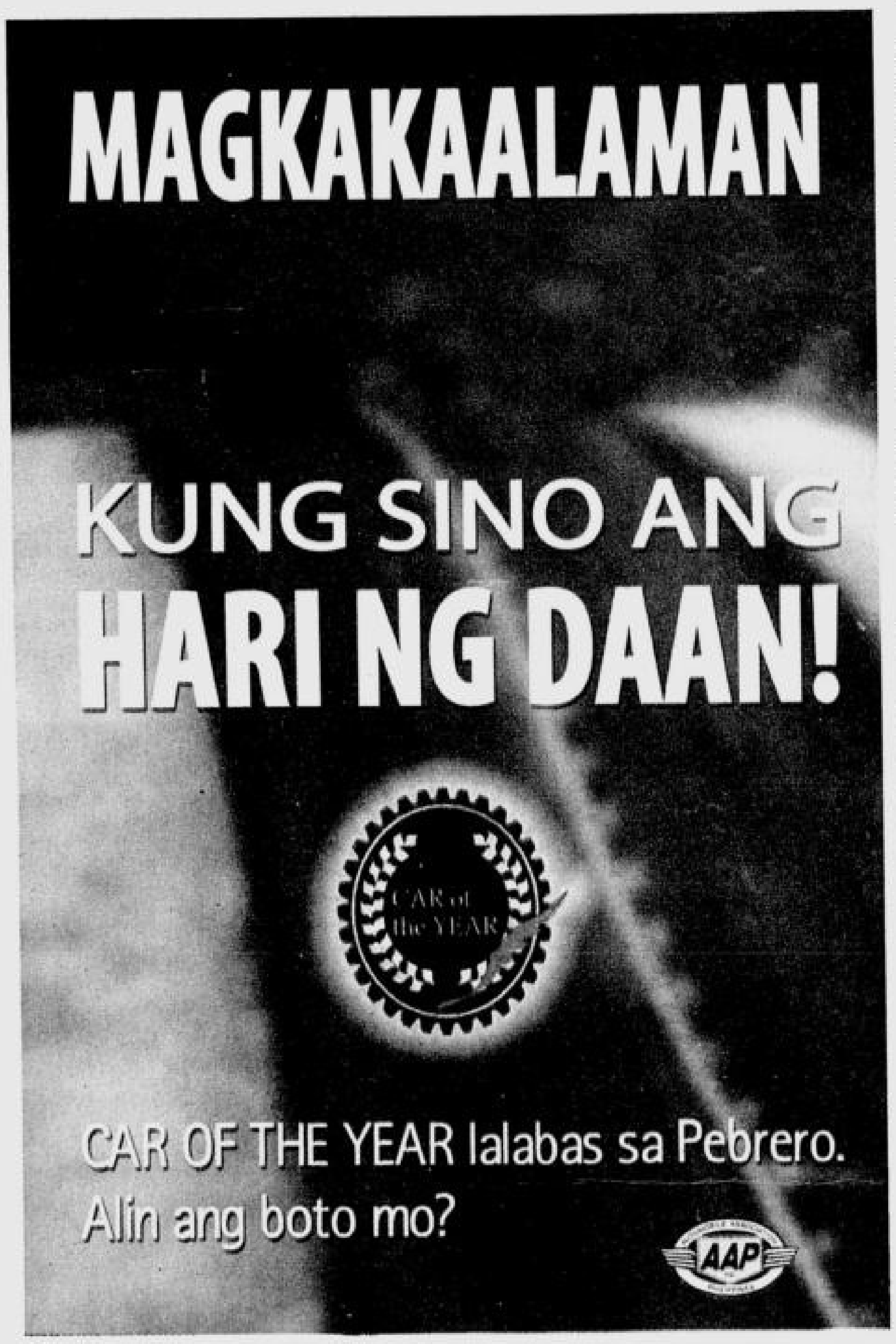
"The system utilizes four leaf springs (that are thinner than those mounted in the previous Crosswind variants) and supported below by thick metal plates to ensure riding stability," revealed Joseph Bautista, IPC product development manager.

The shock absorbers were also upgraded to match this new leaf spring format.

Bautista said the modification was needed to give all the Crosswind variants advantage over the other SUVs in the market today.

"The Sportivo as well as the rest of the Crosswind family would suit the needs of people in areas where roads are very bumpy as Isuzu has proven in this event in the Island Garden of Samal," he said.

The Isuzu event was made possible in partnership with Oceanic Liners and Caltex Delo Sports/Power Diesel.



Kudos to TCO

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

HATS off to Toyota Cagayan de Oro City, please?

In my 15 years as a motoring writer, I have yet to see a car dealer in the country stage a vehicle launch of its own.

It happened on Feb. 18, when Toyota Cagayan de Oro, TCO for short, unraveled the much-talked-about Innova. Venue was the Lim Ket Kai mall situated right in the heart of the golden city of friendship.

The night was star-studded, what with the city's rich and famous in attendance. And that's not to mention the city's most powerful and influential families. It became a virtual gathering of the Who's Who in Cagayan, with no less than 700 persons in attendance.

* * *

"I was amazed myself," said Danny Isla, first vice president of Toyota Motors Philippines (TMP) marketing division. "I thought I was watching a TMP launch in Manila."

Danny graced the occasion together with Kenji Nakashima, executive vice president of TMP marketing, and Sherwin Chua Lim, TMP marketing's field operations officer. Ariel de Jesus, TMP public affair officers, failed to make it due to a previous commitment.

Although I was also in Cagayan de Oro at that time, I didn't make it to the affair due to an appointment I had booked ahead of the vehicle launch. But TCO officials, led by TCO's 1-2 punch Betty Lu and Peter Lim Lo Suy, understood—as always. Betty and Peter knew pretty well I was there in spirit and shared with them the triumph of the evening's momentous occasion that easily became a high-water mark in the nation's motoring industry.

I'll make it up to you next time, fellas? Promise.

* * *

In his speech during the Innova launch, Peter Lim Lo Suy said: "This occasion is a thanksgiving and a celebration of TCO for the unprecedented recognition of its spectacular successes and achievements as a Toyota dealer. In 2004, TCO has, by its modest share, contributed to Toyota Motor Philippines a performance that posted or registered a 5 percent growth from the previous year's output against a market decline in the automotive industry. Thus, TMP has given due recognition to our performance. In the tradition of a grand slam feat we are celebrating for:

"First, TCO is proud to have contributed to the achievement of TMP of the much-coveted Triple Crown for the third consecutive year, an achievement never been scored before in the history of Philippine automotive industry. The Triple Crown is a distinction given to an automotive manufacturer that has achieved the highest sales in three categories, namely: passenger cars, commercial vehicles and overall sales.

"Second, TCO is grateful to have achieved the Class A category in the dealer evaluation conducted by TMP, thus earning a 3-year contract, the first time ever for a Toyota dealer, not only in the Philippines but also in the global market of Toyota as well.

"Finally, TCO is thrilled to host the launching of the beautiful, all new Innova, yet another modern and dynamic design marked by Toyota's experience in knowing the roads of the world!"

I can only agree with you, Peter.

* * *

The Innova is a radical departure from Toyota's established designs in that the new model is neither here nor there, appearance-wise. But it doesn't mean Toyota has altered altogether its vision of the future. No. As Nobuharu Tabata, Toyota president, said to me during a conversation I had with him at Mandarin's Captain's Bar only a while back: "We are always here to bring to our customers only the best vehicles that money can buy."

Innova, much-ballyhooed as Revo's successor, is an MPV (multi-purpose vehicle), according to Danny Isla. Its variants are priced from P700,000 to P1 million+.

In his speech during the Innova launch in Cagayan, Danny said: "Under the very able leadership of Ms. Betty Lu and Mr. Peter Lim Lo Suy, TCO has many enviable practices that Toyota Motor Philippines wishes for every other dealer in the country to have."

Danny was oozing with praise for TCO.

"TCO is also the only dealer in the country so far which takes the initiative to cascade product launches not only to the workforce but also to customers. This allows customers to have an extensive product knowledge about the vehicles they will buy.

"What I like most about TCO is the fact that it is never afraid to reinvent itself. This is the spirit behind the Toyota way. The Toyota way is founded on two important values—Continuous Improvement and Respect for People.

"We, at Toyota, must constantly evaluate ourselves and the way we do things to find out how we can do the same things better or find new ways of conducting business. Respect for people is about ensuring that each one in the organization develops into a highly skilled and highly motivated individual who will then be able to contribute to the team in an effective manner.

"Thank you for living the Toyota values not only in your internal relationships but more important in the way you relate to your customers and suppliers. It makes me proud to think that there are people like you who go beyond the numbers game.

"Daghang salamat ka ninyong tanan. Maayong gabi-i!"

Well, what can I say?

Cheers!

* * *

NLEX Tip: What is an EC tag? It is for Class 1 vehicles that will enter the Northern Luzon Expressway. It is programmed with specific account information by an antenna. Motorists using it will have an exclusive lane at the toll plaza.

* * *

QUOTE ME. When there is doubt when about to overtake, don't do it. Hesitation is the mother of danger.

Drink up or speak up. Our continued reliance on imported fossil fuels like coal and oil for energy is one of the largest reasons behind problems like global warming, air pollution, the rise in respiratory ailments, and the worsening condition of our water supplies. This dependence also leaves us economically vulnerable to the spiralling cost of coal and oil in the world market. And things will only get murkier unless we reduce our use of coal and oil and push for the increased use of renewable energy sources like geothermal, wind, biomass, hydro, and solar. Speak up and let the government know you want clean energy. Text WWF YES <Your Name> to 2366 for Globe (P2.50/text) or log on to www.powerswitch.org.ph/vote. Act now and help get the Renewable Energy Bill passed into law. Maybe then, the future won't be such a hard thing to swallow.

INQUIRER WWF

Goodbye, Revo; Hello, Innova

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IT IS often said that emotions have a lot to do with choosing what car to buy. This is why car manufacturers appeal to the emotions in marketing their products. Note emotion-evoking slogans repeated in car ads such as: "Passion" (Toyota); "Zoom-zoom" (Mazda); "No boundaries" (Ford); "Always there for you" (Hyundai); "Jazz up your life!" (Honda Jazz); and "Shift_the future" (Nissan).

Now comes Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMP) proclaiming "A beautiful (R)evolution" with the Innova, its second Innovative International Multipurpose Vehicle (IMV) after the 2005 Hilux pickup. An adaptation of Chevrolet's "An American rEvolution" slogan in the United States for the Silverado and new Cobalt sports compact, TMP's "A beautiful (R)evolution" plays on the Revo brand, obviously hinting that this popular Asian utility vehicle (AUV) has now evolved into the Innova IMV.

On the other hand, at the Innova line-off ceremony in TMP's Sta. Rosa plant on Valentine's Day, TMP was careful to distance the Innova from the AUV category in which the Revo has long reigned as market leader. In his opening remarks, TMP president Nobuharau Tabata said the Innova is "the minivan version of the IMV" and "carries special significance as it is the worthy successor of our all-time bestseller, the Tamaraw Revo."

Not an AUV

During the open forum following the press briefing, TMP senior vice president Santos Guerrero stressed, "The Innova is not an AUV. It's an MPV—multipurpose vehicle... It will cut across the model ranges. . . It is not an AUV because of the very durable platform, the same as the new Hilux."

When asked whether the Innova can be used as a mega-taxi the same way that the Tamaraw Revo was and is still being utilized, Guerrero replied that there is no problem regarding passenger load, so the Innova can serve as a public utility vehicle (PUV). However, he added, the Innova was designed with eight front-facing seats and because of this, TMP is not sure whether transportation companies will use it to shuttle commuters.

"We have another model for PUVs," Guerrero said, claiming that in the last few years shuttle operators shifted from the Revo to the Hiace because the latter can accommodate more passengers. "The initial cost of the Hiace may be high, but in the long run it is more profitable and more suitable for transport companies as it can load 15 passengers," he pointed out.

Prices

The 2005 Hiace Commuter, by the way, appeared in Toyota showrooms last Jan. 28, powered by the same 2KD-FTV direct injection turbocharged, four-stroke common rail 2.5-liter diesel D-4D engine that propels the Innova. The all-new Hiace, which comes only with manual transmission (MT), is priced at P1,048,000 while the common rail diesel Innova MT variants cost from a low of P768,000 to a high of P915,000. The automatic transmission Innova variants, of course, cost more. Gasoline variants equipped with the 2.0-liter VVT-i engine are also available.

WILL the Innova be a best-seller like the Revo?

Going back to the press briefing, when he was asked whether Toyota is abandoning the AUV segment, Guerrero replied that although TMP classifies the Innova as an MPV, it still falls under the light commercial vehicles category like the phased-out Revo Tamaraw. The last Revo rolled off TMP's assembly line on Dec. 18, 2004.

"Although we are painfully aware that the Revo is a legendary model in the Philippine landscape, it is getting old," Guerrero said. "We have to change with the times. The IMV platform is advanced technology. I don't think that we plan to come up with a Revo look-alike model. But be sure that coming IMV models will satisfy all the needs and wants of customers. While we want to keep the heritage of the Revo, we also want to create a new market and launch new global models."

TOYOTA Innova

Exit

The exit of the Revo leaves the AUV market wide open for the remaining players, the Mitsubishi Adventure and Isuzu Crosswind Sportivo. But since the Innova, with its advanced Global Quality technology, is offered at prices competitive with the Adventure and Crosswind, it could also mean the eventual demise of the AUV market in the Philippines.

Little did we know that when TMP held a Revo Reflections photo contest last year, it was their way of saying goodbye to the AUV. Many Filipino families and commuters have formed a sentimental attachment to the durable Tamaraw Revo. But I agree with TMP execs when they say that Filipinos are beginning to demand more up-to-date technology and value for money when they shop for cars. It is time to let go and move on.

***

THE SUSPENSE ENDS TOMORROW NIGHT. The first Car of the Year Awards Night will be held at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Rockwell Tent at the Plaza, Makati, organized by the Car Awards Group. Stay tuned to find out the Best-in-Class awardees and the winner of the coveted title.

***

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Think this looks bad? You should see the front.

***

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.

Decision and action

From page C4

forms and sizes of automotive erotica. The reality though of many motorists, is that price does matter, and in fact, often dictates purchase.

As I've said on many occasions before, we exist in a motoring culture where the price of a standard entry level family sedan is at least 2,000 times that of the average daily wage. Ignoring price would therefore be sheer folly, bordering on social irresponsibility.

There was no trepidation or apprehension in the choices that were made to design the technical procedure and survey instruments for Coty. Integrity and fairness have always been hallmarks of reportage and opinion, so these guiding characteristics were adopted as the principles of this pioneering Philippine project.

The concept of sending the raw results to an accounting firm (SGV) was but a logical final step. Having a leading auditing firm confirm the math behind the selection process serves to legitimize the choice of our Car of the Year. This would ensure the integrity and confidentiality of the results until the awards night on Feb. 24 at the Rockwell Tent.

Deserving recognition

Thanks are due to three very specific groups.

The Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) deserves top billing, for believing in the selection process and the award itself. The group backed its belief with an effort that funded and facilitated the entire testing process.

The vehicle manufacturers also deserve recognition for their support and, well, their courage. In the end, submitting a product for direct comparison with the competition is a manufacturer's greatest endorsement. If one did not believe that their products were competitive, then one would not send them. The truth does not get any plainer than this.

Rightful and final recognition goes to the motoring journalists. The numbers that came and partook of the baking Eagle Ridge sun, and patiently endured the wrath of the project's technical director, deserve my sincerest gratitude. The rest merit thanks for all the criticism, commentary and conjecture that have filled the pages of both print and the Internet.

Your freedom to choose and decision to react has told volumes on your personal opinion about the Coty project, your fellow journalists and, ultimately, the craft of reportage. We would not have worked as hard and as untiringly without your opinion; it is a fuel that stokes a fire that will burn long in my memory.

So without further ado, ladies and gentlemen of the motoring public, I ask your mind's eye to lift the curtains on the first Philippine Car of the Year awards. Many of my colleagues in media and motor-sport worked for peanut shells to give you what you so rightfully deserve. Congratulate them on their responsible exercise of choice.

***

For comments, e-mail the author at scandyflick@yahoo.com.

Special prices for BMW vehicles

FEB. 27 marks the day that the largest selection of BMW certified preowned vehicles to be gathered in one place will be made available at special prices and easy ownership terms.

The central BMW certified preowned event, slated at the BMW Pavilion in the Fort Bonifacio Global City, will offer nearly new and well-maintained BMW vehicles—all covered by BMW's comprehensive warranty.

BMW will also offer its demo vehicles, as well as cars previously used by its top executives.

WINDSHIELD
CRACK REPAIR
U.S. Pat.
Up to any Long. Guaranteed!
LTO APPROVED!
NOT REPLACEMENT! EMISSION CTR2
SALE: NEW ANALYZER 150T / OPACIMETER 215T
• RESTORES CLARITY 80-90%, STRENGTH 100%
• REMOVE GLASS SCRATCHES, ACID RAINS & SILICON BUILD-UP
• CLEANS & SANITIZED CAR A/C IN 45 MINS. (U.S.)
• PAINTLESS DENT REMOVAL • REPAIR LEAKS & DEFOGGER
CALL NOW BEFORE ITS TOO LATE!
MANILA MIDWEST #40 Kalayaan, Ave., Q.C. Tels.: 926-6829/435-6391
Nat'l. Rd. Bangiad, Taytay, Rizal Tels.: 286-2925/286-0362
Km. 16 Aguinaldo Hi-way, Talaba VII, Bacoor, Cavite
Tel.: (046) 970-2464 Cell# 0922-5322001 ILOILO: 337-3782
Cell# 0920-3102154 Website http://members.aol.com/hitecom
Bring this ad for P150 OFF except on Emission Test. Expiration date 03/31/05

2005
Jimny
BEAUTY ... and BEAST
4x4
New space efficient layout seats
New dashboard is based on advanced ergonomic studies
New gated gear selector for JLX A/T (M/T also available for JX and JLX)
New meter cluster
New specially designed transmission chain that reduces friction, noise and power loss
New 2 DIN stereo system available in JLX A/T and M/T
New remote keyless entry
FULL FRAME 4x4
2WD 4WD DRIVE ACTION 4x4
The Real 4x4 SUV. CBU-JAPAN
Your dynamic lifestyle demands a vehicle that can meet any challenge, anytime and anywhere. We believe that the Jimny 2005 is just that vehicle. A true SUV that will carry you boldly into the future. Call your Suzuki dealer now for your next ride.
SUZUKI
Suzuki Philippines, Inc. - 671-57-22

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Decision and action

CATCH MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

WE make choices on a daily basis. This is part and parcel of the entire "cause and effect" wheel of man's reality.

Decision points are critical, often spelling the difference between events as mundane as burning the night's *saing* of rice, but sometimes as critical and profound as a nation's fate and the well-being of other people.

Choosing, despite being the ultimate expression of freedom, carries the greatest burden. This burden is responsibility.

In late August of 2004, a group of acquaintances, mostly motoring journalists from the leading dailies, glossies and TV outfits, came to me with a proposition. Upon hearing the end goal of the proposal, I will have to admit that I was initially stunned by the scope of the endeavor.

Finally, a majority of the motoring press had agreed, in principle, to exercise their right and responsibility of choice.

The Car of the Year project was born and I was tasked with the weighty responsibility of the instrumented testing procedures and the survey instrument. These two factors plus a price sensitivity system would be used, equally, to determine the first Philippine Car of the Year (Coty).

I made the decisions to set up the procedures, in what I believe, were the best circumstances at the time—a passionate enthusiast.

3 equal criteria

The three equal criteria for testing were chosen for a reason.

Cars, by nature, are measured by performance. This is critical, even in vehicles deemed more as tools for transportation rather than thrill-inducing toys.

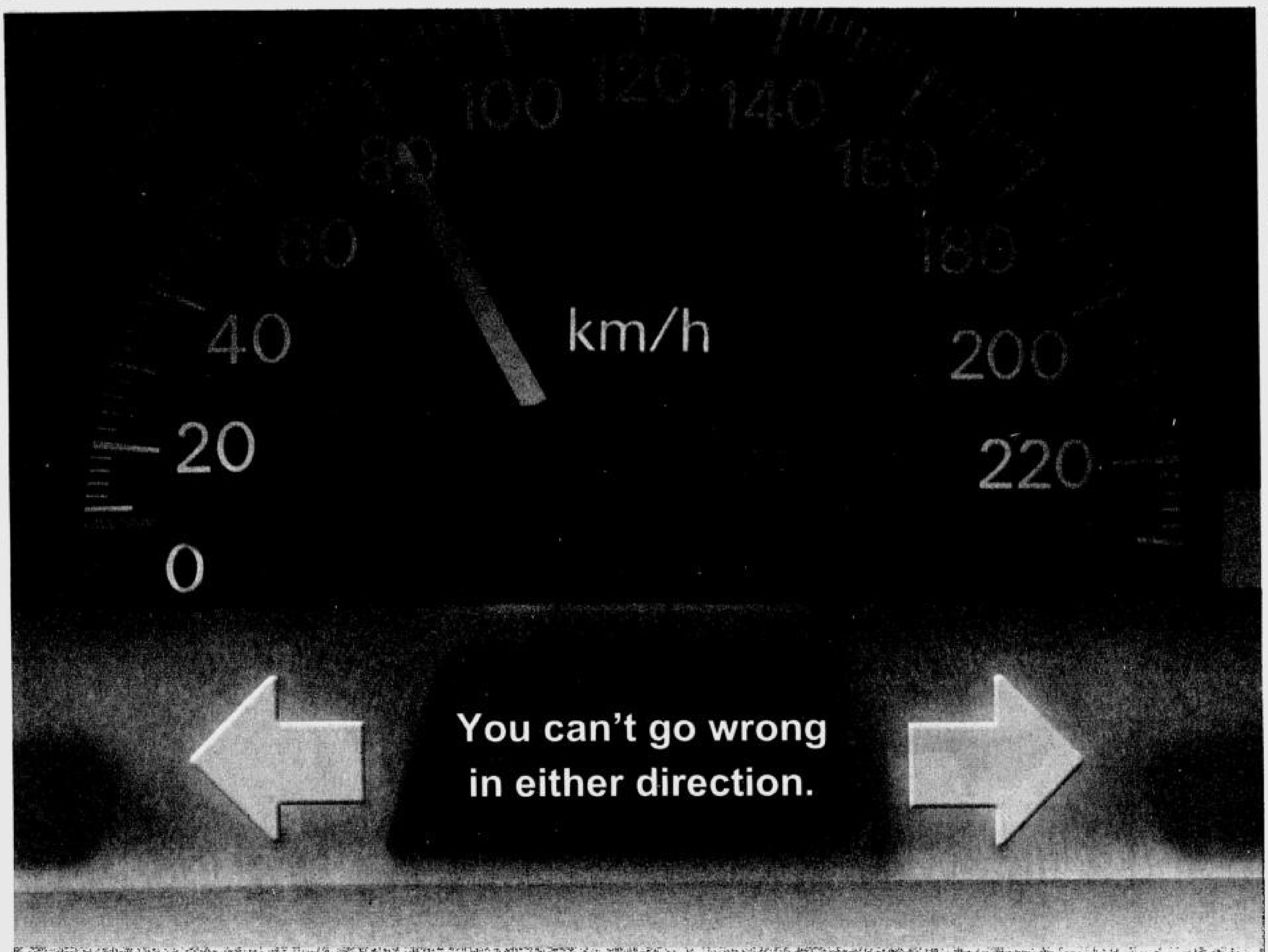
Acceleration (0-100 kph) is indicative of safe and confident overtaking. Emergency braking (100-0 kph) determines capability to safely stop in extreme situations; and noise levels in the car (in decibels or dB) tell us how insulated the car is from engine noise and ambient noise pollution.

A survey of user expectations serves as the qualitative side of vehicle assessment. Meeting and exceeding expectations is solely up to the perspective of the customer; and decisions based on this are fairest when the scope of experience of the rater is widest.

The areas of driving dynamics, comfort, value-added appointments and overall acceptability of the design of the vehicle were subjected to some of the toughest critics, the motoring media people themselves.

Price was determined as the great equalizer. In a day dream world of inexhaustible funds, one's ideal garage can easily be filled out with all shapes,

DECISION/ C3



AMAZINGLY AFFORDABLE
EASY-OWN PLANS

Be one of the satisfied owners of a Lancer or an Adventure. Because now, you can enjoy driving home any of these fabulous vehicles with Mitsubishi's amazing financing offers.

Low Down Payment Plans

Model	SRP	Downpayment	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.	72 mos.
LANCER 1.6 GLX M/T	698,000	57,700	29,252	20,840	16,713	14,576	12,879
LANCER 1.6 GLS CVT	758,000	41,700	31,767	22,632	18,149	15,829	13,986
LANCER 1.6 MX CVT	838,000	68,700	35,120	25,020	20,065	17,500	15,462
ADVENTURE GL DSL	675,000	81,250	28,289	20,154	16,162	14,096	12,454
ADVENTURE GLX GAS	700,000	85,000	29,336	20,900	16,760	14,618	12,195
ADVENTURE GLX DSL	750,000	57,500	31,432	22,393	17,958	15,662	13,838
ADVENTURE GLS SPORT GAS M/T	795,000	79,250	33,318	23,737	19,035	16,602	14,668
ADVENTURE GLS SPORT DSL	805,000	80,750	33,737	24,035	19,275	16,811	14,853
ADVENTURE GLS SPORT GAS A/T	848,000	107,200	35,539	25,319	20,304	17,709	15,646
ADVENTURE GRAND SPORT GAS A/T	980,000	127,000	41,071	29,260	23,465	20,465	18,082
ADVENTURE GRAND SPORT DSL	935,000	95,250	39,185	27,917	22,387	19,525	17,251

• Also available GLX 5-seater and 7-seater models

*For low monthly plans • All financing plans subject to bank approval

Stretch your plan up to 72 months

For as low as P41,700 down payment for the Lancer

For as low as P6,816* monthly for the Adventure

Check out our financing plans for the Space Gear, Strada and Outlander.

Hurry! Promo until February 28, 2005.

See your nearest Mitsubishi dealer now!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0523 Series of 2005.

METRO MANILA: CITIMOTORS, INC.-Makati (Main) - Tel. Nos: 892-0331 to 42 CITIMOTORS, INC. - Las Piñas - Tel. Nos. 875-1545 / 875-1704 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Greenhills (Main) - Tel. Nos. 727-0351 to 60 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Quezon Ave. Tel. Nos. 372-3901 to 15 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Marcos Highway - Tel. Nos. 645-6801 to [illegible] MOTOR - Fairview Tel. Nos. 935-3731, 418-2945 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Valle Verde - Tel. Nos. 671-0590 to 94 MITSUBISHI MOTORS BALINTAWAK - Tels. 330-7562/6901 to 05 UNION MOTOR CORP. - Paco (Main) - Tel. Nos. 563-6481 to 85 / 563-6461 to 67 UNION MOTOR CORP. - Abad Santos - Tel. Nos. 251-7021 to 38 UNION MOTOR CORP. - Kalookan - Tel. Nos. 364-2061 to 69 *LUZON DEALERS:* AMCAR AUTOMOTIVE CORP.- Sta. Rosa, Laguna - Tel. Nos.: 420-6057 to 58 CALEB MOTOR CORP. - Naga City Tel. (054) 811-6119 CARWORLD, INC. - Pampanga (Main) Tel. Nos.. (045) 963-1111 CARWORLD, INC. - Malolos Tel. Nos. (044) 791-0320 / 791-2405 to 06 CARWORLD, INC. - Marilao Tel. Nos. (044) 711-2805 to 97 CARWORLD, INC. - Olongapo Tel. Nos.: (047) 222-3743 / 224-4307 CARWORLD, INC. - Tarlac Tel. Nos. (0452) 982-5551 to 53 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES OF BALIUAG CORP. - Baliuag Tel. Nos. (044) 673-4083 / 766-4236 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES OF CABANATUAN CORP. - Cabanatuan (Main) Tel. Nos. (044) 463-1391 / 463-5103 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES - Isabela Tel. (078) 682 8401 JABEZ MOTOR CORP. - Dasmariñas Cavite Tel. Nos.: (046) 416-5968 / 850-0119 / 416-5060 / 850-1681 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - Calasiao (Main) Tel. Nos.: (075) 517-3060 / 517-5835 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - Baguio City Tel. Nos. (074) 300-3571 / 446-0157 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - La Union Tel. Nos.: (072) 705-5050 / 705-3834 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - Urdaneta Tel. Nos.. (075) 568-2502 / 568-3312 SFM SALES CORP. - San Pablo (Main) Tel. Nos. (049) 562-0690 to 91 / 562-6569 SFM SALES CORP. - Lipa Tel. No.. (043) 756-1018 *VISAYAS DEALERS:* AVESCOR MOTORS - Iloilo Tel. Nos.: (033) 337-4455 / 337-6456 / 337-0487 AVESCOR MOTORS - Bacolod Tel. Nos.. (034) 435-2111 to 14 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. (Main) Tel. Nos. (032) 345-1233 / 420-0717 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Dumaguete Tel. Nos. (035) 225-1427 to 29 / 275-6025 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Tacloban Tel. Nos. (053) 323-2820 / 323-2379 to 80 / 323-3724 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Tagbilaran Tel. Nos. (038) 411-2081 / 411-5814 to 15 *MINDANAO DEALERS:* KARASIA, INC. - Davao (Main) Tel. Nos.. (082) 222-1111 to 16 KARASIA, INC. - Davao (South) Tel. Nos. (082) 295-1490 to 94 / 298-0175 to 77 KARASIA, INC. - Tagum Tel. Nos. (084) 217-3882 MINDANAO INTEGRATED COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. Nos: (083) 302-0686 to 87 (083)552-4781 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Butuan Tel. Nos.. (085) 815-3089 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Cagayan de Oro Tel. Nos.: (088) 856-1848 ZAMBOANGA MOTORS, INC. Tel. Nos.. (062) 991-2199 / 991-2138 / 991-2260 / 993-0786

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

2bU! to be young • to be you • to be young • To be you!

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

DUNKIN' DONUTS PRESENTS
CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA
MARCH 04, 2005 8:00PM ARANETA COLISEUM
Colour Everywhere
Get a chance to win 2 tickets FREE when you buy a dozen Dunkin' Donuts.
• Promo period is from February 17 to March 19, 2005
• See posters for details.

A 2bU! FASHION FREAKS SPECIAL

THE BUZZ ON BAZAARS

Part 1

The 2bU! Fashion Freaks have been longing for December for two reasons—the cool weather and the hot bazaars

We crave the thrill of stepping into the huge booth-lined halls. We miss jumping from one stall to another, spotting great finds for even greater prices. We miss showing off our big discoveries and having people fawn over them. We miss bazaars, period.

This week, we begin a two-issue special - 2bU!'s very own print bazaar. We've put together our favorite picks from last year's bazaars along with other amazing young entrepreneurs who have products that will surely wow you.

This is a celebration of the bazaar generation and the young geniuses who've learned to flex their business muscles early. Happy shopping!

If you're a young entrepreneur and you want to have your products featured in our pages, e-mail us at thefashionfreaks @yahoo.com.

Panting for pants

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Ocs Alvarez

FOR RICHELLE Vibal and Deng Garcia, passion and sheer determination led them to come up with their brand of beach-inspired wrap-around pants, Karsones.

"We bought a sewing machine and cloth to practice on, and started our experiment. We tried and tried until we got exactly what we wanted," says Richelle.

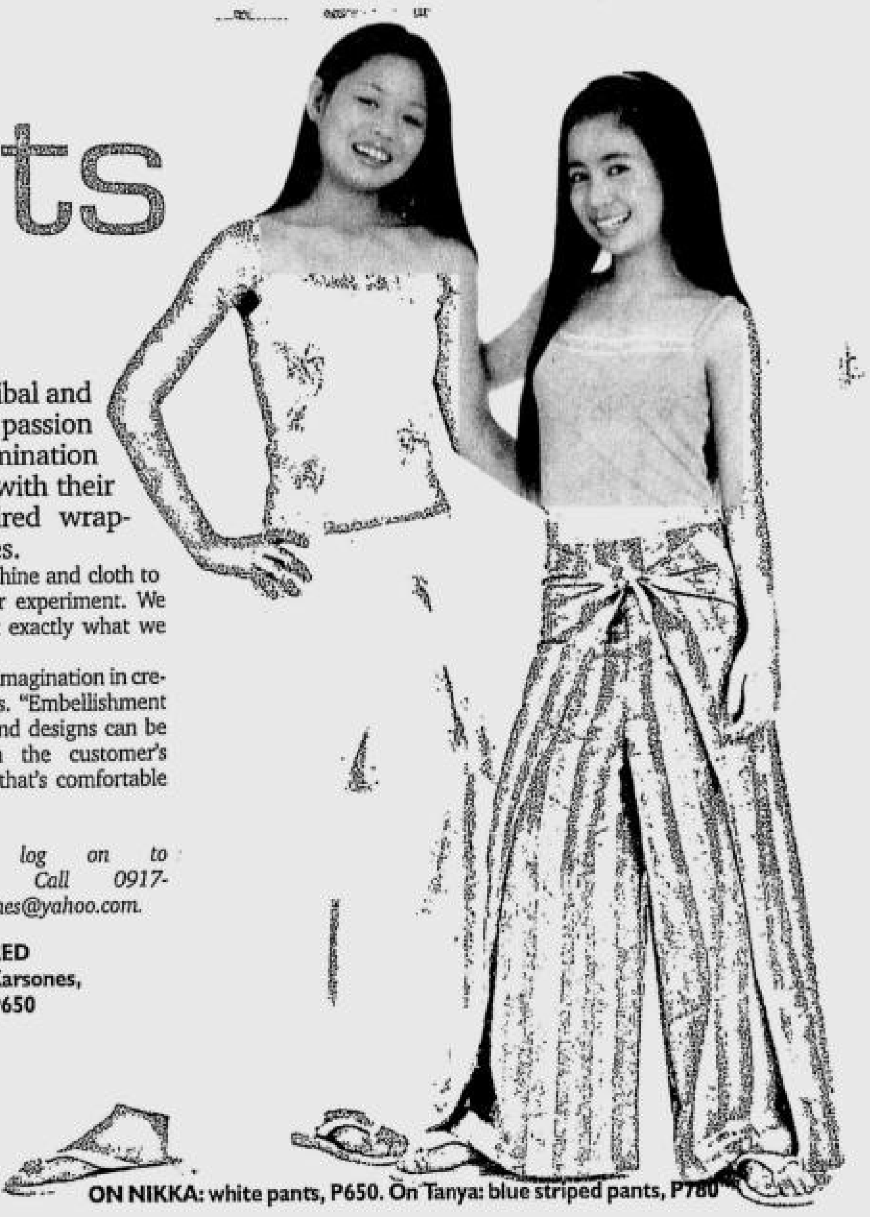
"We make the most of our imagination in creating our designs," she adds. "Embellishment could be added, and sizes and designs can be customized, depending on the customer's needs--we want something that's comfortable and fun at the same time."

To find Karsones, log on to www.karsones.blogspot.com. Call 0917-5305327 or e-mail hsmkarsones@yahoo.com.

REVERSIBLE Karsones

ON TANYA: green-and-yellow linen pants, P780. On Nikka: aqua capris, P600

RED Karsones, P650



ON NIKKA: white pants, P650. On Tanya: blue striped pants, P780

Take it off, Take it off!

New LIPOLite.
Melts fat with light.

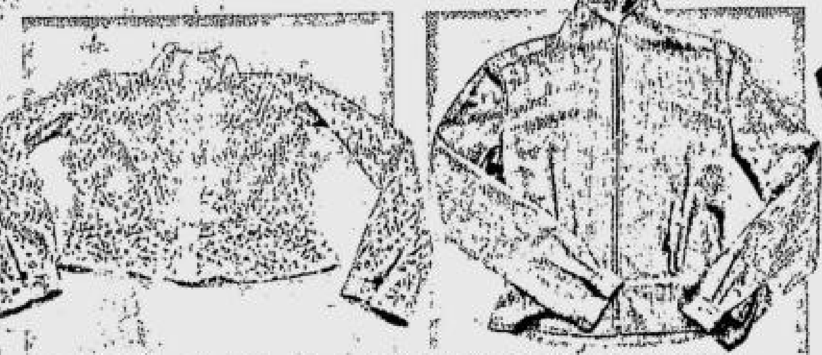
Take off those unwanted fat with the revolutionary Lipolite. Lipolite uses a combination of Bi-Polar Radio Frequency and Infra-red light so you can have the body you've always wanted,without surgery.

LIPOLite. Another first from Belo.

Belo Medical Group
Nobody does beauty better.

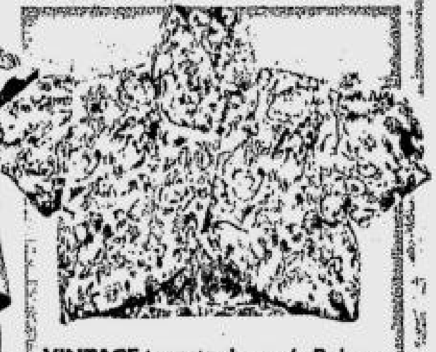
call: 844-2939 • e-mail: info@belomed.com • website: www.belomed.co

THE PRINCESS shirt (tailored with puffy sleeves), P600. Also available in solid black, white and red



LACE zip-front jacket in old rose (left), P1,000. Also available in pale blue, black lace and gray herringbone light wool (right)

STRIPED blue and white denim Mae West Bolero, P750. Available in other fabrics

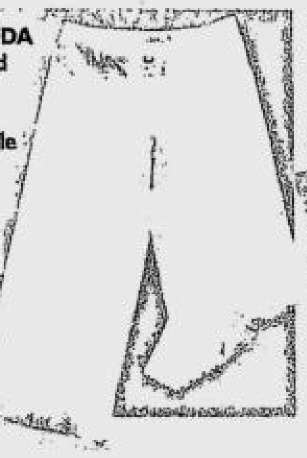


VINTAGE tapestry brocade Bolero, P1,000. Available in other fabrics

GEORGIA printed tunic, P650. Also available in plain fuchsia and pink-white floral print in stretch cotton

CHARLIZE skirt, P750. A combination of linen, knit and lace

JULIETTE white jeans, P900. Also available in dark denim. Ilaya also makes custom-fit jeans and pants.



MIRANDA cropped pants, P750. Available in a variety of fabrics

DREW wrap top, P600. Also available in different geometric prints

From shopaholic to super designer

Tina Silva-Navarro creates beautiful and affordable fashion pieces for real women

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan and Romy Homillada

WHILE a lot of designers seem to create their pieces with mannequins in mind, 29-year-old Tina Silva-Navarro designs for real women.

"Our clothes highlight your assets and hide your flaws. I want women to feel good about themselves when they wear our clothes," she says.

It was Tina's own needs that jumpstarted her design career.

"It's a little selfish on my part. I started designing clothes for myself. I only design items if I would wear them myself. For example, for 'bulging stomach days,' I made pants that would minimize that bulge and accentuate the length of my legs instead, or a shirt that would flatter my collarbones and draw the eye away from the stomach bulge."

She also has special pants for "Thunder Thigh Days." Evidently, Tina realizes that the world is full of women who have imperfect bodies. "Not everyone has the perfect body but we can surely try to make our bodies seem that way," she says.

Her friends eventually got in on the act, asking her to design for them.

"They also have different body types. They liked the fact that they can dress up or dress down the clothes that we make. We got good response from them and they started referring me to their other friends who in turn did the same thing."

Tina's husband Jeff also played an important role. "My husband gives me his honest opinions and suggestions on the prototypes that are made before production. Being a man, he has his own ideas about what's flattering to women and what's not and though we may not always agree, I like hearing what he has to say," she says.

Tina named her line Ilaya, after a street in Divisoria. "We first purchased our fabrics in Ylaya when we started. We chose that name to remind us of the hard work and of our humble origins if we ever strike it big."

In the fashion world, Ilaya is still a baby. Tina only started to focus on her fashion line last September. But a lot of women have already pledged allegiance.

"The idea basically is to make clothes for women that will be fashionable but not too trendy that it will be soon passe, comfortable but not sloppy and sexy without showing too much skin," says Tina.

Her favorite materials to work with are jersey and charmeuse stretch silk. "These fabrics drape so well and flatter the body amazingly but they're also hard to sew. I love the richness of brocade, especially the vintage ones. I love working with unusual fabrics because they give a very simple cut the extra oomph it needs. Denim, of course, will always be on top of my list for boleros, jackets and pants."

Tina is more of a draper; she's not big on drawings. People will be amazed to find out that Tina doesn't have formal training in design. "It embarrasses me a little when new clients ask me about my design background. I would like to do something about that in the future."

What she lacks in training she makes up for with passion. When asked about her inspirations, she gives us a long list.

"My friends inspire me a lot, that's why a couple of shirts are named after them. Their lifestyles, careers and even their moods give me something to work with... My mom's vintage clothes—she's 75 now so one can just imagine how many clothes have come and gone. The detail and drape of her thirtysomething and fortysomething-year-old clothes are amazing... The color, texture and drape of the fabrics I work with... Nicole Kidman, Kate Moss and Cameron Diaz. They make everything look effortlessly good, to say the least."

What a long jump from being just a shopaholic. "At least now, I've cut my clothing bills into one-fourth of what it used to be," she says.

Her bestsellers include the bolero ("We started making it for the Heaven Sent Bazaar last November 2004 and it's still one of our fastest-moving items."), the cropped pants, short jackets and the Princess Anne shirt.

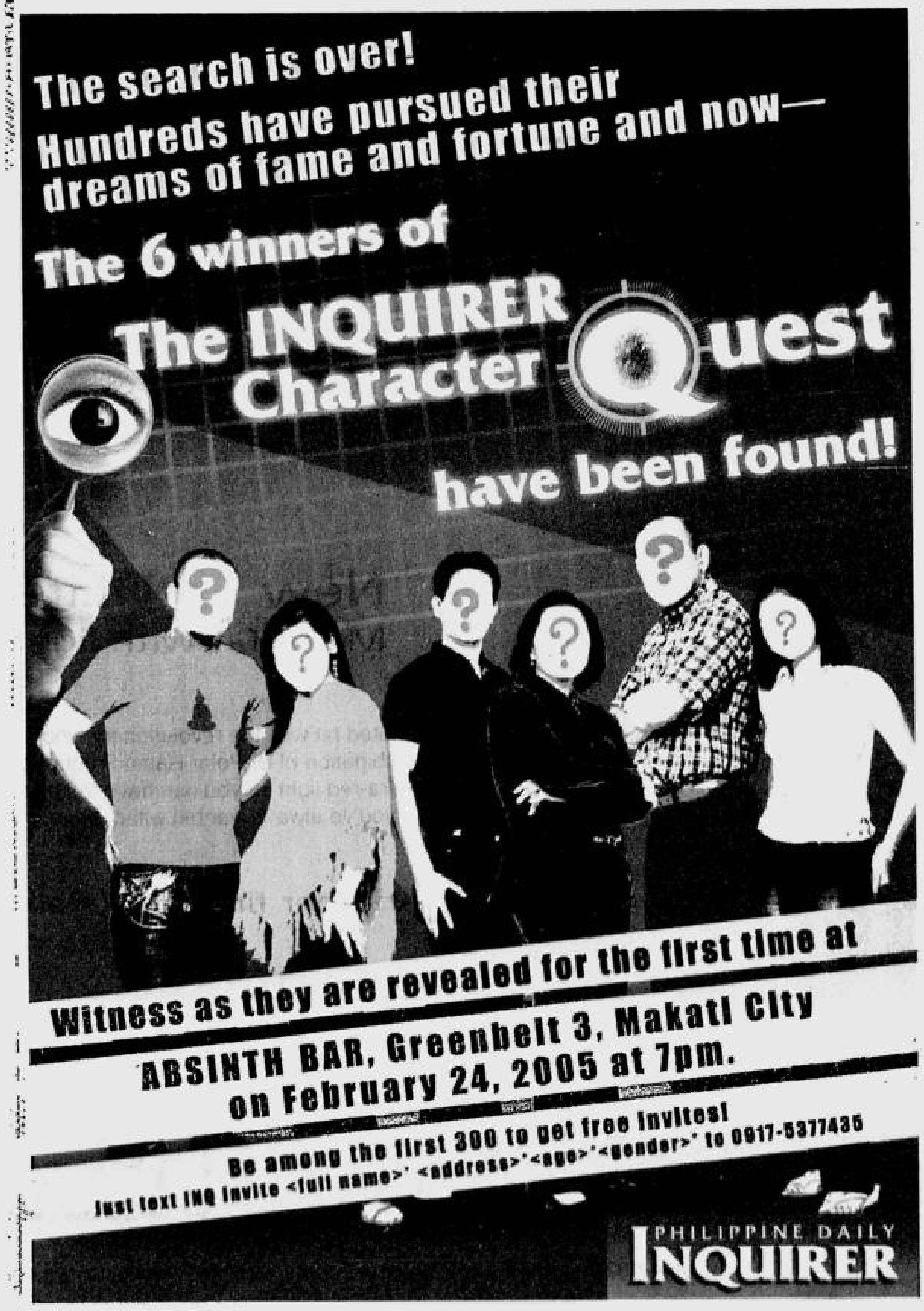
The designs stand out and the prices are affordable. And the good news doesn't stop there.

"I make a limited number of pieces per design. Girls don't have to worry that there will be other girls in every corner of the mall wearing the exact same thing."

Tina remains humble despite her growing success. "I'm just taking each day at a time, making sure that my clients are very happy with the clothes that we make."

We're pretty sure she's going to make it big.

Ilaya is located at the 2/F, unit 11D, Metrowalk Complex (beside MC Home Depot), Meralco Ave, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City. Contact Tina at 0920-9241808.



The search is over!
Hundreds have pursued their dreams of fame and fortune and now—
The 6 winners of The INQUIRER Character Quest have been found!
Witness as they are revealed for the first time at
ABSINTH BAR, Greenbelt 3, Makati City
on February 24, 2005 at 7pm.
Be among the first 300 to get free invites!
Just text INQ invite <full name>' <address>'<age>'<gender>' to 0917-5377435
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ARE YOU a good witch... Or a bad witch? Shirt, P350

MAGIC spell shirt, P350

Bewitching wear

LONG-SLEEVED black shirt with faux fur neckline, P580

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Ocs Alvarez

FOR JEN Bulatao, it all started with a book called "The Book of Wicca."

"It opened my eyes to a whole new aspect regarding life and nature, and made me think of ways to possible relate it to women. Since I am heavily into fashion, the idea of Wicca Collections was born," she said.

Wicca Collections, which is composed of deliciously witchy clothes (like shirts with black cats and magic spells printed on them), also accepts orders for gowns and may soon come up with a line for men, as well as beauty products.

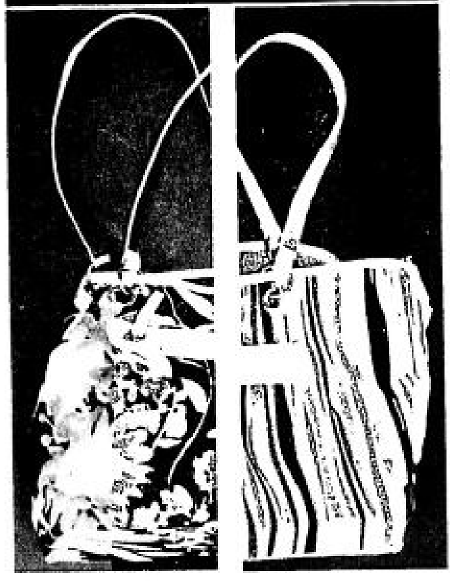
Wicca items can be purchased at Unit 3008, West of Ayala Condominium, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave, Legaspi Village, Makati, and at the G/L Campos Rueda Bldg., Urban Ave. Legaspi Village, Makati (at the Citinails Nail Art Center).

WICCA logo tank top, P250

BLACK cat shirts, P350 each

FURRY black tube, P350; maroon skirt, P550; charm bracelet, P1,500

MAX reversible bags, P650



Functionally fashionable

Twink Bags are for fun-loving fashionistas looking for that extra oomph in their accessories

By Kristine Ching
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Rudy Esperas

A GIRL can never have too many bags, so the cliché goes. But since not everyone has a bank account comparable to Paris Hilton's, thank goodness for fashionable yet affordable bags.

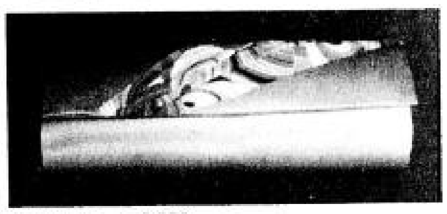
Enter Twink Bags, a wide range of bags for fun-loving fashionistas looking for that extra oomph in their accessories.

Designer Trina Castillo emphasizes form and function in her collection, which has everything from day bags to evening bags—all reasonably priced starting at P150!

Castillo says all her bags are made with "love, fun, and function in its design. And I absolutely love it when my bags make my customers smile."

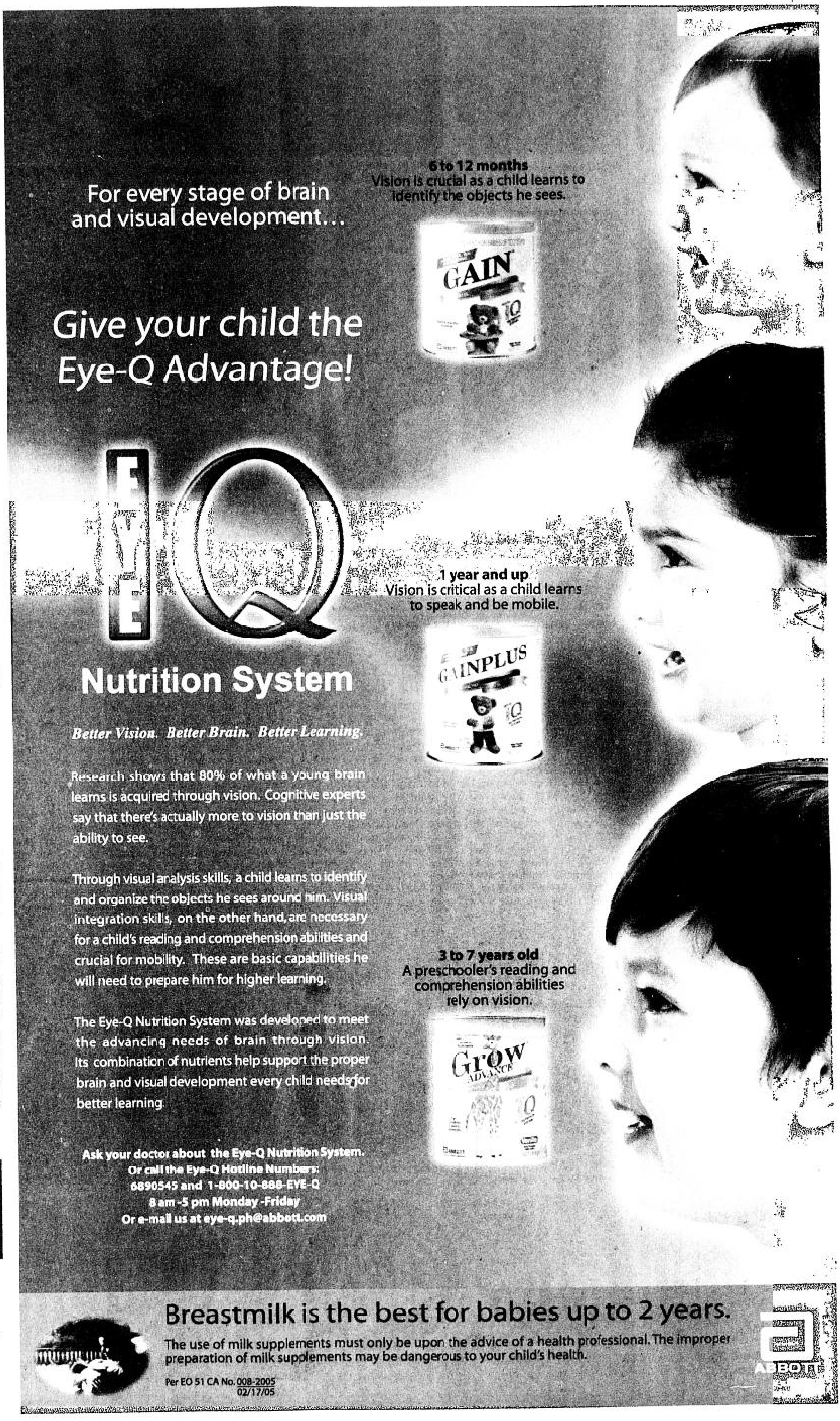
Check out Twink Bags at Prime Outlet Store in Robinson's Ermita, White at 50th Ave. in Robinson's Galleria and White at Market!Market! Twink Evening Bags are also available at House of Laurel.

Call 0917-8417681.



SASH clutch, P550

SMALL Kenny clutch, P550



For every stage of brain and visual development...

Give your child the Eye-Q Advantage!

EYE Q Nutrition System

Better Vision. Better Brain. Better Learning.

Research shows that 80% of what a young brain learns is acquired through vision. Cognitive experts say that there's actually more to vision than just the ability to see.

Through visual analysis skills, a child learns to identify and organize the objects he sees around him. Visual integration skills, on the other hand, are necessary for a child's reading and comprehension abilities and crucial for mobility. These are basic capabilities he will need to prepare him for higher learning.

The Eye-Q Nutrition System was developed to meet the advancing needs of brain through vision. Its combination of nutrients help support the proper brain and visual development every child needs for better learning.

Ask your doctor about the Eye-Q Nutrition System.
Or call the Eye-Q Hotline Numbers:
6890545 and 1-800-10-888-EYE-Q
8 am -5 pm Monday -Friday
Or e-mail us at eye-q.ph@abbott.com

6 to 12 months
Vision is crucial as a child learns to identify the objects he sees.

1 year and up
Vision is critical as a child learns to speak and be mobile.

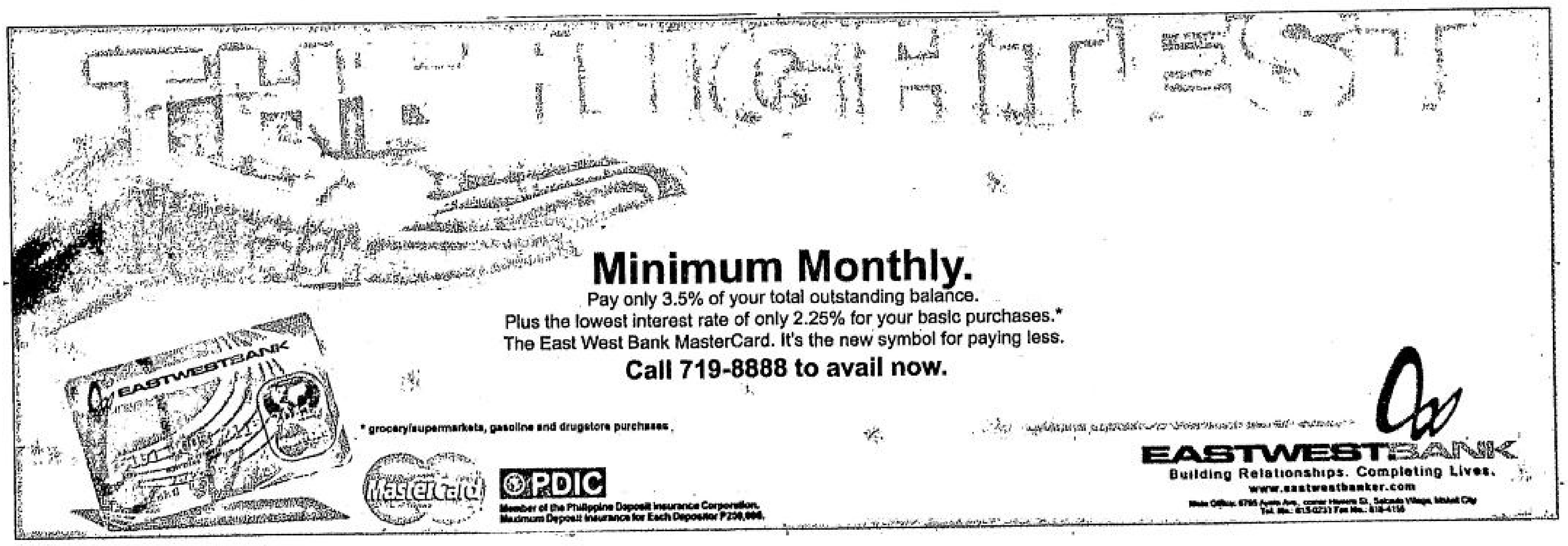
3 to 7 years old
A preschooler's reading and comprehension abilities rely on vision.

Breastmilk is the best for babies up to 2 years.

The use of milk supplements must only be upon the advice of a health professional. The improper preparation of milk supplements may be dangerous to your child's health.

Per EO 51 CA No. 008-2005
02/17/05

ABBOTT



THE HIGHEST

Minimum Monthly.
Pay only 3.5% of your total outstanding balance.
Plus the lowest interest rate of only 2.25% for your basic purchases.*
The East West Bank MasterCard. It's the new symbol for paying less.
Call 719-8888 to avail now.

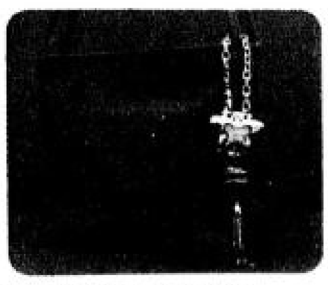
* grocery/supermarkets, gasoline and drugstore purchases.

MasterCard

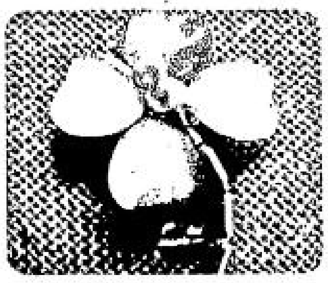
PDIC
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation.
Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.

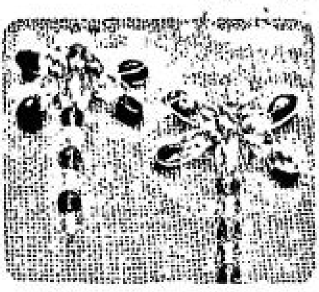
EASTWESTBANK
Building Relationships. Completing Lives.
www.eastwestbanker.com

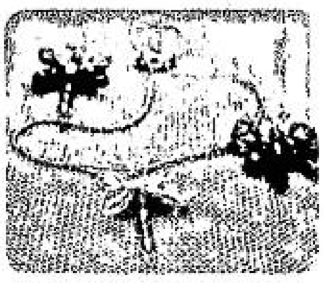
DOLL bag charm, P150


WATCH bag charm, P450

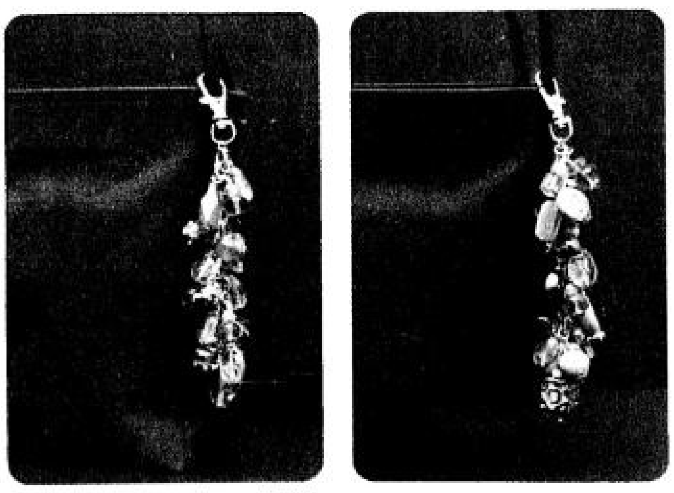
NAME bag charm, P800 for first five letters or less, P100 each for succeeding letters

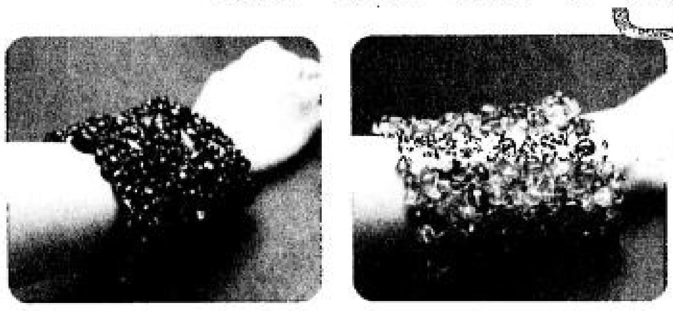

CLOVER brooch, P400


DRAGONFLY brooch, P350

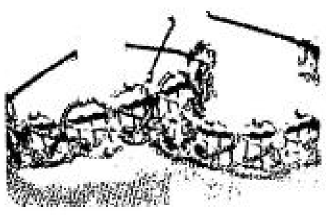

INSECT pendants, P200

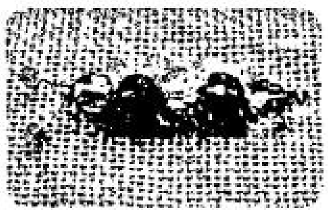
Destined for design

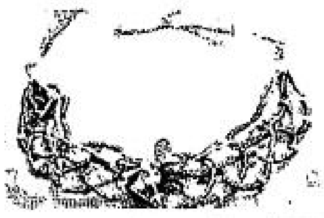

PROSPERITY bag charms, P400

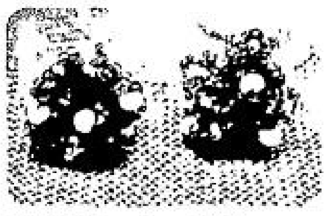


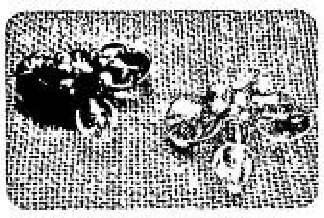
"MY biggest inspiration is my son, Nico. Having him at an early age has really helped me decide on what I really wanted to do with my life."

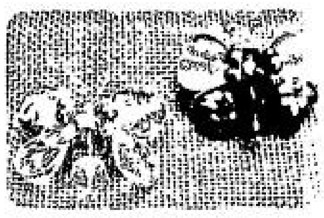

BEADED wire tiara, P800


CATERPILLAR hairpin, P200


DRAGONFLY wire necklace, P800


CLIP-ON earrings, P150


GLOW-IN-THE-DARK firefly brooch, P300


BUTTERFLY brooch, P350

[illegible]

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

TWENTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD Christine Marie Cielo Fronteras was born to create.

In first grade, she drew fairies and mermaids and sold her sketches to classmates. She learned to work with beads and started making bracelets and necklaces for her relatives abroad.

After prodding her grandmother to teach her how to crochet, she began making clothes for Barbie dolls, which her friends would buy.

It was in high school that she discovered her passion for fashion. Classmates would queue up so she could design their prom gowns. In college, she took the plunge into candle-making. Her scented candles were a hit with her teachers and her parents' friends.

Her love for fashion continued to flourish. "I would make my own accessories and embellish my clothes with the stock of craft materials I had at home. Soon, my classmates were ordering from me, so I decided to make a few accessories to sell in school."

Her accessories caught the eyes of one of her aunts who asked if she can sell them to her own friends too. As orders from schoolmates and her aunt's friends started to come in waves, Cielo's business took off.

In just two months, she made P100,000. "It was unbelievable since I started with 500 pesos' capital only!" she says.

Cielo decided to call her brand Oleic—her name spelled backwards. Soon, her life became a juggling act, with her trying to make enough time for schoolwork, the orders she had to finish and her son. As if by magic, she was able to maintain balance.

After graduating from San Beda College in Alabang with a degree in Mass Communications, she decided to focus on her business full-time.

Cielo designs beautiful accessories with her own hands. Her bestsellers are the brooches, bag charms and wire necklaces, which were a big hit at last December's bazaars.

The learning doesn't stop for this crafty gal. "I am now taking up courses in dressmaking and Fashion Design in Slim's, Makati, to further expand my knowledge and creativity in fashion," she reveals.

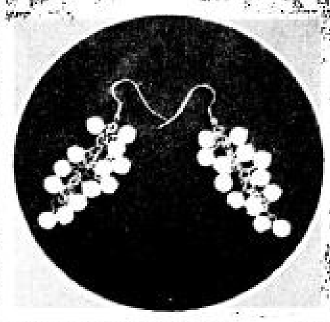
Inspired by her family, especially her son Nico, Cielo continues to work hard. She has grand plans for the future. "Soon, I want to be able to make the clothes I have been designing and I want to get into bags and shoes as well. Eventually, I want to put up my own gallery once I have saved up enough for it."

But right now, working on jewelry is enough to keep her happy. "They come out unique and each piece is really beautiful," she says.

We couldn't agree more.

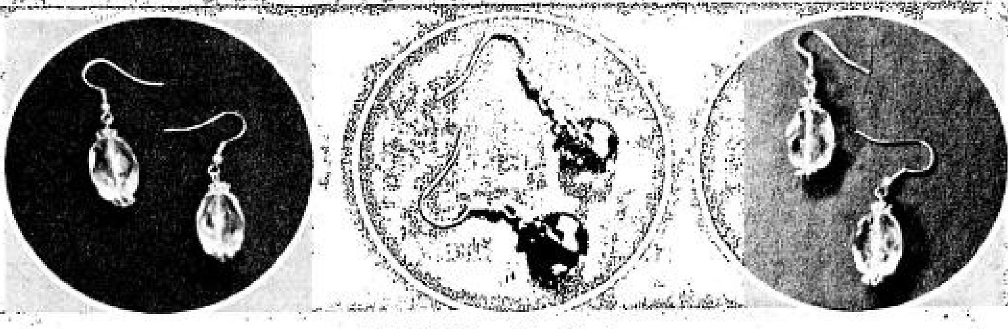
You can find Cielo's products at all Mag:net branches (Katipunan, Paseo Center, The Loop in ABS-CBN) and at Mimi Cosmetics in Rockwell. Orders can be placed through 0917-9897830 and 8076625.

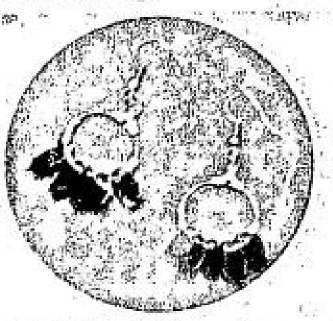
Intoxicating creations


PEARL MIXERS, P130. Cluster earrings

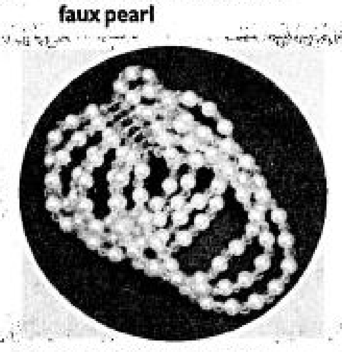
CHAMPAGNE, P150. Rice pearls and cool amber, crystal in flowing gold setting

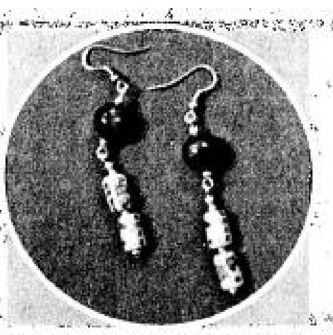
BAILEYS, P130. Bronze faux pearl


SUB ZERO crystal collection

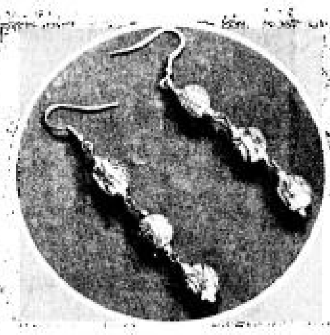

MEXICOLA, P90. Silver hoop, bronze paillette, faux crystal

WHITE MARTINI, P150. Silver hoop, white faux pearl, clear faux crystal


BELLINI BRACELET, P150. Seven-strand faux pearl and crystal


MAI TAI, P130. Warm brown buddha beads, cylinder bead with chi characters

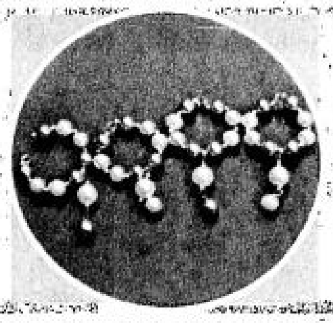
PINK MARTINI, P130. Silver hoop and pink faux pearl


MAI TAI, P140. Drop earrings with porcelain beads with characters

Stock up on champagne, martini, mixers, vodka, rum and wine and still stay sober. Here's how

RUM SWIZZLE, P150. Bronze cylinder bead, silver bead and finding, electroplated chain

MAI TAI, P130. Warm brown rock beads, Chinese dice bead


WINE CHARMS, P150. (four per set)

FLIRTINI bag tag, P150

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Raffy Lerma

THERE'S only one way you can stock up on champagne, martinis, mixers, vodka, rum and wine and still stay sober. By purchasing them from Catherine Dy's accessories line—Cocktail Designs.

The plan began around August or September last year, when Catherine decided to start making jewelry. Through the suggestion of her sister, she picked a name based on her own initials. Thus, Cocktail Designs was born.

After picking out the name, the concept just started to flow. "I started designing and naming my pieces after cocktail drinks based on the color, style and image of the pieces," she explains.

It was her boyfriend who thought of packaging the accessories in different shotglasses to complete the total look.

Then, Catherine decided to do business the cyber way. "I e-mailed the pictures of the designs to my friends and created a website." Yes, the rest, as they say, is history.

Catherine continues to design accessories with her sister and boyfriend. She makes each piece with her own hands, often working with chains and pearls of all kinds—faux, synthetic, freshwater, rice, etc.—to come up with delicate silk-like chains to thick belt chains.

Her best-sellers include the bag tags with crystals, pearls and silver initial letters, White Vodka earrings (long chain, rice pearls), Shirley Temple bracelets (pearl bracelets with different colored ribbons), Black Russian and Bellini bracelets (5 to 7-strand bracelets).

She only started selling her own stuff at the bazaars last Christmas—and her Fizz Collection, which is made of paillettes, was a big hit. "Everyone was ordering those because it's a cheap but nice gift," she says.

Catherine intends to go abroad soon, maybe to Bangkok or China to buy raw materials. "(I want to) buy lots of rystals, beads and other raw materials which I do not find here so I can design and make unique one-of-a-kind pieces."

She also intends to expand into designing bags and clothes and is dreaming of having her own store one day.

The future is bright for Cocktail Designs—and we can't wait to see what Catherine will have to offer us in the coming days.

Check out Cocktail Designs at http://cocktaildesigns.blogspot.com, e-mail Catherine at katerin613@yahoo.com or call 0917-6297310.

Watch lady

Gail Santos is making vintage watches that cater to the young crowd

By Katrina Yap
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Romy Homillada

GAIL Santos has a lot of time on her hands—literally and figuratively. She is the proud owner of Vintage Watch Collections Company. And her business is time.

"*Wala lang, hilig lang talaga,*" says Gail of her business. Gail, who on a typical day runs through her designs, checks trends, and mans her stall at Style Centrale in Eastwood City, Libis, is also preparing for her baby, due May.

"Now, I cannot work full time. But right after I deliver my baby, full time again," she says. Luckily for Gail, she now has 10 people working for her, and business hasn't suffered with her pregnancy.

But it wasn't easy in the beginning.

Inspired by her sister-in-law who made accessories, Gail surfed the net for business ideas and stumbled upon selling vintage watches. Now don't get it wrong—Gail's watches are all brand new. But the styles are classic and trendy at the same time.

She sources the watches from Hong Kong, but these aren't cheap and disposable. The watches' movement is from the Japan Movement. The machines being used are almost the same as Guess's and Fossil's. The components are also of Marcasite crystals, which give the watches the "vintage look." The metal spacers (the watch's bracelet) are handcrafted. The crystals used for the bracelets are Swarovski from Austria.

With a modest capital of P50,000, Gail started her business by joining bazaars in 2003. She painstakingly created every piece. Her timepieces proved to be a hit. "When I first joined the bazaar in Shangri-La, I was surprised I sold all of my timepieces! Not even a single one *natira*!" she proudly says.

More bazaars

With her success, she decided to join more bazaars, including Karl Edward, and Hotel InterCon's bazaars. Her accessories have also made it to a bridal fair and a fashion shows.

Due to the clamor for her pieces, she expanded her collection to include what she calls "Funky Watches." The watches were inspired by the Gucci watches, with changeable bands. She decided to make hers different by making detachable metal bracelets, so that it's the watches' faces that could be changed. Now, her Funky Watches are of different sizes and shapes, and come in various designs.

And even before the granny-chic look came to be, Gail decided to test her limits further by introducing Pearl Watches. The Pearl Watches make fantastic bracelets. The bands are elastic, so glamming up is easy.

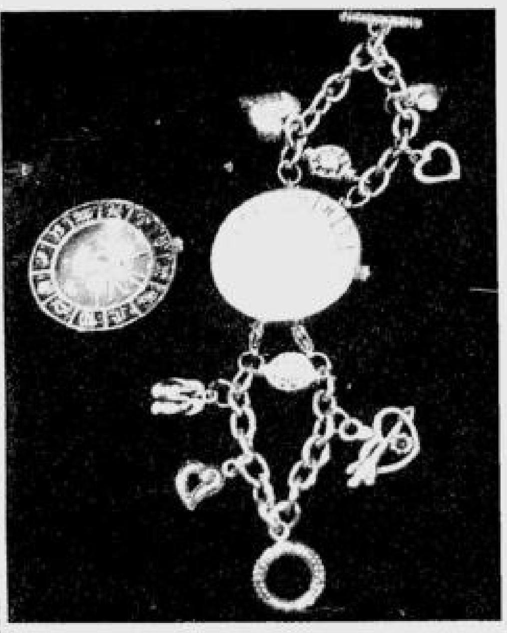
The timepieces are very affordable—prices of the Funky and Pearl Watches are from P650 up, while Vintage pieces are from P1,800 up. A real bargain since her watches are of good quality. Should a customer find something wrong with the watch, Gail says she has her own repairman to take care of it, "We're not the fly-by-night type of entrepreneurs." Customer satisfaction is definitely first to Gail.

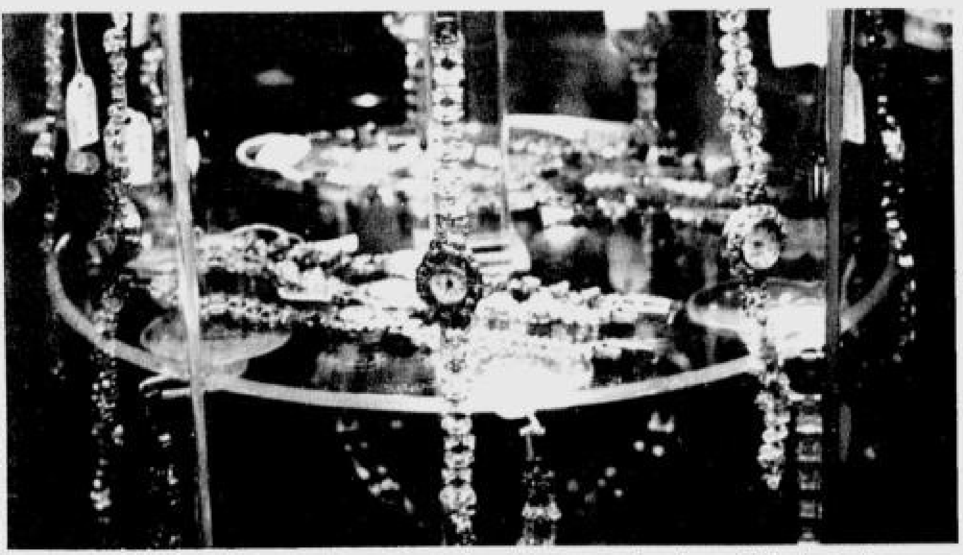
Moreover, the watches are not mass-produced. Gail only produces eight to 10 pieces per style, so you're not likely to run into somebody wearing the same thing. Gail can also personalize watches, depending on the customer's specifications and the available materials.

Her watches are selling like hotcakes. She sells an average of 10 pieces a day. But there are times she sells even more, especially the last quarter of the year. One customer bought as much as 14.

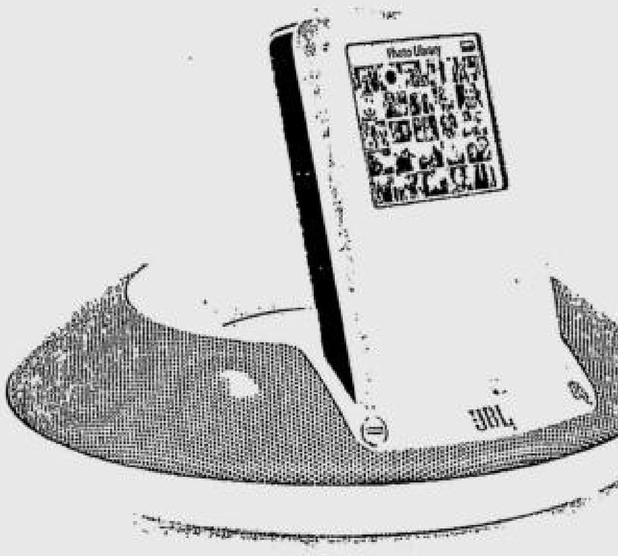
But to Gail, the best part about the business isn't even the money. Gail is happy to see the fruits of her labor. And she says it's fantastic to be doing something she really loves. "I like what I'm doing. And now I have my own time," Gail says.

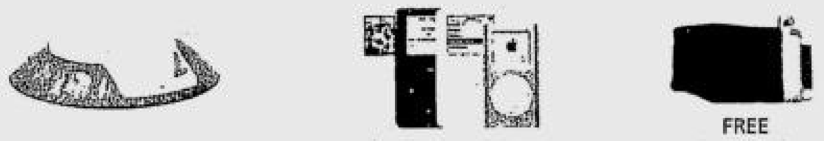
Gail Santos can be reached at mobile 0916-4013795 and e-mail by_vintage@yahoo.com





SOMETHING old, something new. Vintage watches give your outfits a dose of old-school glam.





iPod + JBL OnStage
Your New Personal Stereo!

Buy a JBL OnStage Speaker for only Php 10,900.
Purchase it with an iPod unit and get an iPod sock for FREE!

JBL OnStage Speaker + Any iPod unit* = FREE iPod Sock Protect your iPod

*iPod clickwheel or iPod mini only.
Promo period from February 18 to March 31, 2005.
Participating Dealers:
Astroplus - Avant - Complink - Electroworld - Mobile 1 - palmOne Pod Central - Villman

Authorized Distributor
MICROWAREHOUSE

Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 0442 Series of 2005

weddings
AT WESTIN
10 am - 9 pm, Sunday, 27 February 2005
Harbor Garden

Come to the wedding event of the year, a one-day bridal fair of wedding planners, suppliers, service providers and professional consultants. You've found your perfect mate! It's time to get the perfect match to help you plan and create the wedding of your dreams.

PROGRAM

10:00 am BRIGHT BEGINNINGS, AN OPENING CEREMONY

11:00 am GLAMOROUS BRIDES, STYLISH GROOMS
Makeover session and tips on looking radiant from head to toe with acclaimed bariatric and weight loss expert Dr. Joel Mendez and beauty specialist Kinny Salas featuring Elizabeth Arden Cosmetics

12:30 pm FASHION SEDUCTION
Lingerie and sleepwear fashion show by Maidenform, Naturi and Calvin Klein Underwear
Make-up by Elizabeth Arden Cosmetics

3:00 pm A ROMANCE WITH PEARLS
A Fashion Accesories Show by Jewelmer
Dresses by Rajo Laurel
Make-up by Elizabeth Arden Cosmetics

4:00 pm I DO, I DON'T
Bridal Do's & Don'ts and Good Fortune for 2005
by Rita Neri & a Feng Shui Master

6:30 pm STYLES AND TRADITIONS at the Sunset Pavilion
Bridal fashion presentation by Njork, Dennis, Lustico, Patrice Ramos-Diaz and Kate Torralba
Make-up by Elizabeth Arden Cosmetics

8:30 pm GRAND RAFFLE at the Harbor Garden
Grand Prize: TRIP for TWO to BALI, INDONESIA with 3 nights - 4 days accommodation at the Sheraton Nusa Dua Bali

In partnership with
Jewelmer PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Elizabeth Arden
923 JOEY kasal.com
maidenform Calvin Klein NATURI

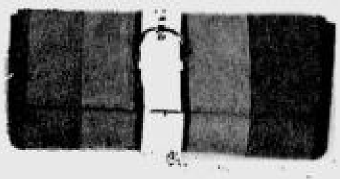
FREE ADMISSION AND HOURLY PRIZES

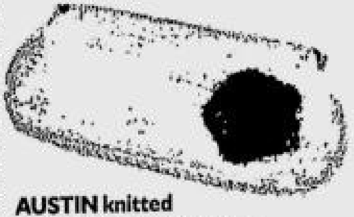
Directed by ROBBIE CARMONA of SAGA Events

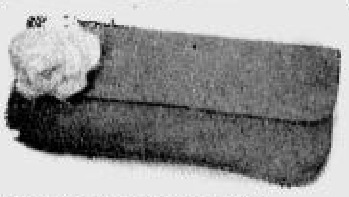
For more information call The Westin Catering Office at 832-6999
Register online at kasal.com

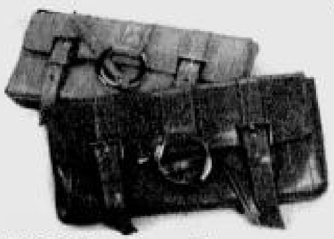
THE WESTIN
PHILIPPINE PLAZA
MANILA

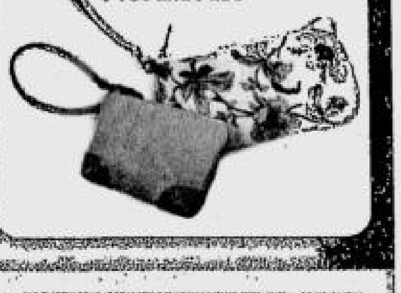
CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd. Pasay City 1300, Manila, Philippines Tel: (032) 551-5555 Fax: (032) 551-5010 Email: catering.01060@westin.com Website: westin.com/manila


PARKER suede clutch,P330


AUSTIN knitted clutch with brooch, P700


GRANT canvas clutch with brooch, P500


VAUGHN faux crocodile clutch, P590

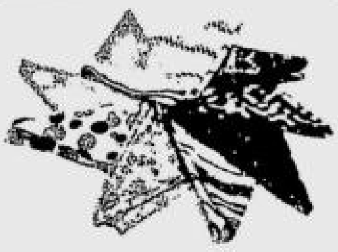

BOO and Drew wristlets, P180 and P250

STEVE crocodile jelly cosmetic case set, P600

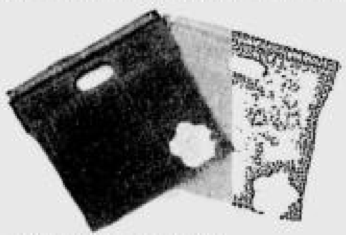
MAO Oriental wristlet, P250

JOSH canvas bag with sash, P700 each

TAYLOR shoulder bag with brooch, P700 each


SCOTT scarves, P180 each

Bagging it


JUAN rattan bag with brooch, P490

KOFI metallic shoulder bag, P530

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Ocs Alvarez

CLASSY bags at affordable prices—that's what Cole Vintage is all about. It started out in June 2004 as the brainchild of partners Eileen Co and Rosey Lee, young entrepreneurs with a love of fashion and accessories. "We try not to restrict ourselves to trends, and we mix vintage designs with new ones," Eileen says. "Our prices are budget-friendly, but we do not scrimp on quality."

As of the moment, Cole Vintage's focus in mainly on bags (clutches and carry-alls are their bestsellers), but also worth checking out are their colorful scarves.

Where to get their bags:

Cole Vintage's main branch (to open March 2005) at Ellyne, Stall #88, Aannapolis Carpark Arcade, Greenhills. Call 7214896.

Contact Chico at 0917-5284087 or 0922-.4138585 (Philippines) and Rosey at +1310-3832156 (USA), and e-mail colevintage@pldtdsl.net

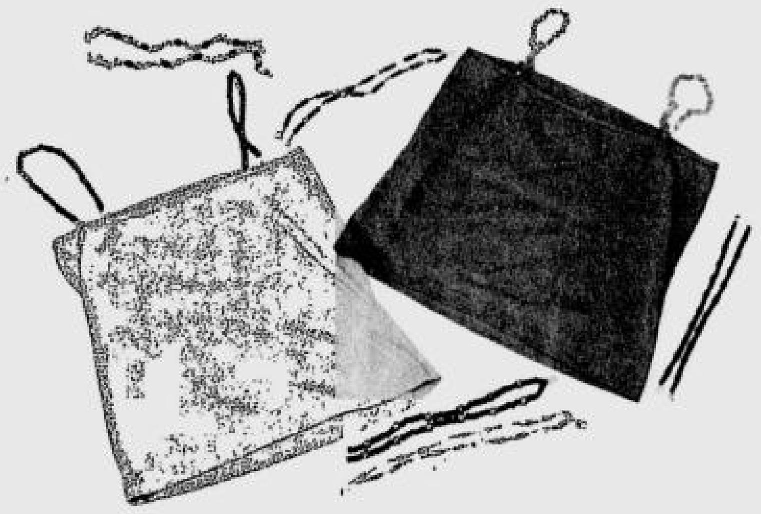
Consignments:

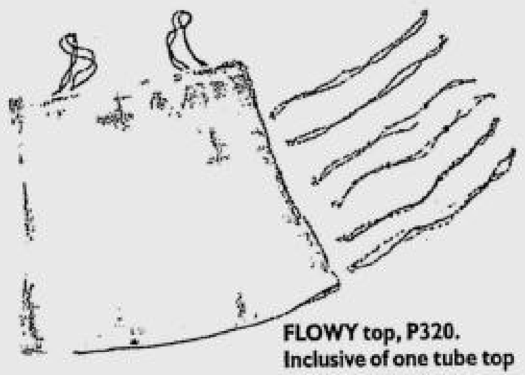
The Store With No Name (3/L Expansion Mall, Robinson's Galleria; tel. no. 6331771); Tonic (G/F Astoria Plaza, Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig; tel. no. 6872724); Be (Missouri Lane, Theater Mall, Greenhills; tel. no. 7269422); Citywalk (Glorietta 2, Makati); Gloss (2/F Fashionwalk, Gaisano Mall, Davao)

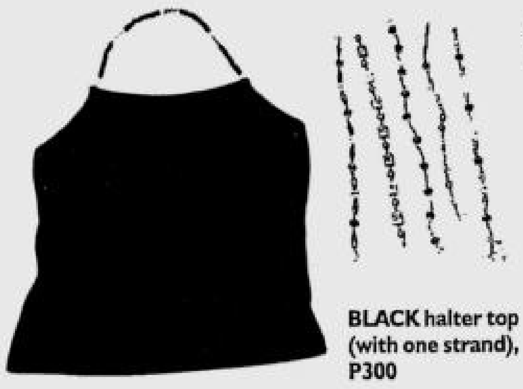
CHOI Oriental sling, P530 each

PERRY paisley bag, P690

IRA metallic mini hobo, P460


TUBE tops (with one pair of straps), P250 each


FLOWY top, P320. Inclusive of one tube top and one pair of straps. Extra straps cost P100.


BLACK halter top (with one strand), P300

Chic choices

These girls give their clients the power of choice

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Rudy Esperas

THE BIG idea struck in 2003.

In the desire to start their own business, friends Debby Lou Tan, 24, Michelle Chua, 24, Jessica Tsoi, 23 and Irene Ting, 23, decided they wanted to create their own line of products that were not as expensive as designer brands an bot would stand out from your typical *tiangge* offering.

They did it by giving their clients the power of choice.

Their line, called MyFetish_YourFetish, has been popular in bazaars since 2003.

In the same way that Starbucks gives countless options to coffee addicts—short, tall, hot, cold, decaf, house blend and on and on—MyFetish_YourFetish gives shoppers the chance to make decisions.

Tube top or halter top? Colored or black? How many straps? What kind of beads? Everything is yours to decide.

The girls also sell clutch bags with bag bands that you can change to match your outfit. For P420, each bag purchase includes two bands—and clients can buy as many bands as they want for only P80 each. It's like going out with a new bag every time.

As a follow-up to the best-selling tops with beaded interchangeable straps, they've also created flowy tops in off-white and black, which also come with interchangeable beaded straps.

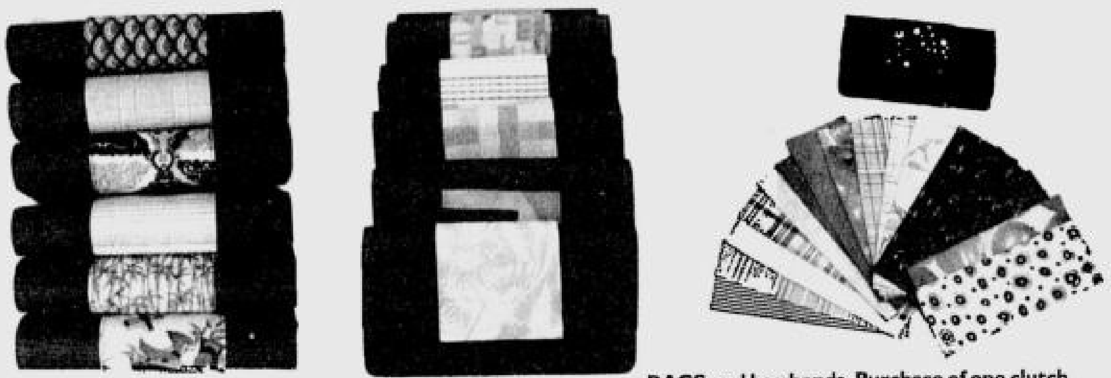
And just in time for summer, the girls are also offering capri-pjs in bright summery colors—perfect when worn with your favorite flip flops.

"We conceptualize the design, handpick the materials and outsource the labor for our items," says Irene.

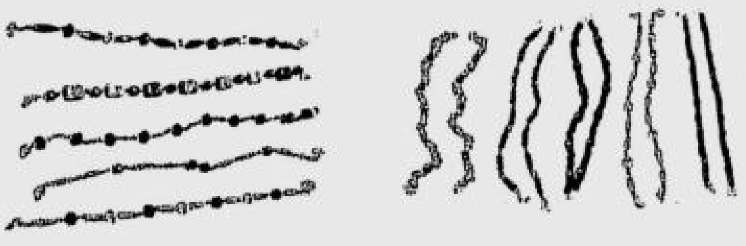
The foursome are looking forward to opening their own store in the future.

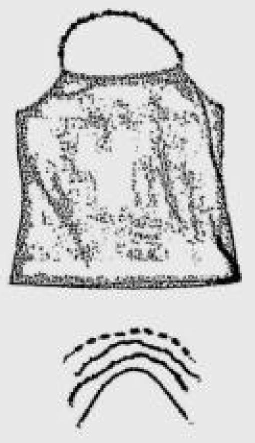
We'll definitely drop by for a visit.

Order MyFetish_YourFetish items through myfetish_yourfetish@yahoo.com, their friendster account Fetish or call Irene at 0917-8947578, Debby at 0917-7061078, Jessica at 0917-5343915 and Michelle at 0917-5344351 or visit Unit 8, 641 Mangga Avenue Villa Sta. Mesa, Manila. They are willing to deliver bulk orders.


BAGS and bag bands. Purchase of one clutch includes two bands (P420). Extra bands go for P80.

CAPRI-PJs. They come in various sizes, from hip size 30 to 36, P240.

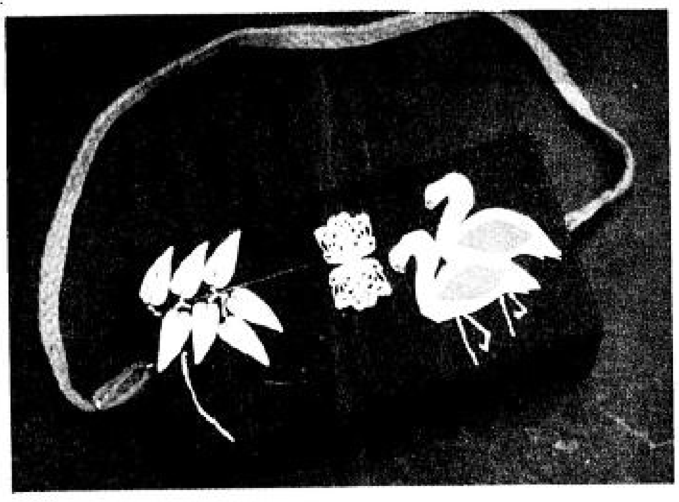

EXTRA top straps, P100


COLORED halter tops (with one strand), P300

Fab and funky accessories

By Kristine Ching
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Rudy Esperas

MUMSIES in Bloom box bag, P695



FLAMINGO Duo box bag, P695

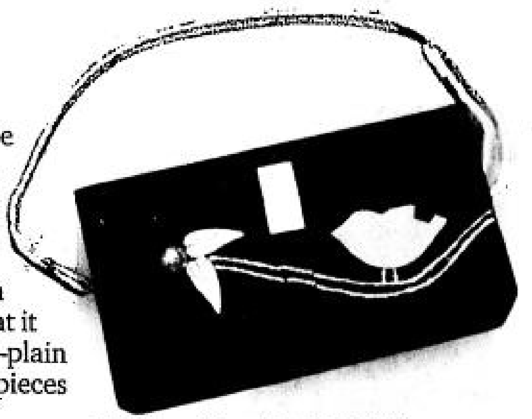
YOU spot a funky necklace in a store's display case. It's perfect for this Saturday's party outfit and then you spot the price. It was enough to fund a small army in Iraq. It happens all the time that it should be a universal truth—plain things are cheap and unique pieces cost more than an i-Photo,

Fear not, meet Janice Fernandez. She's an accidental entrepreneur with a bejeweled manicure. Janice makes unique accessories for anyone who wants to add funk and flair to their wardrobe at an affordable price. Price ranges from P120-P1,500, but custom pieces will depend on the client's budget.

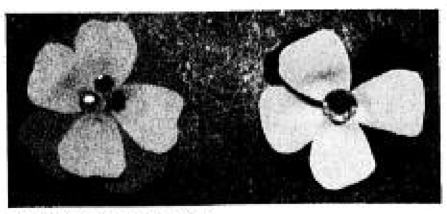
Janice does the whole thing herself—from sourcing the materials, designing and producing the pieces. Pieces are done in either limited quantities or one-off.

This reluctant entrepreneur started out making accessories as a hobby. One day her friend commissioned her to make hundreds of bracelets as an event give-away. From then on, Janice had been getting requests from other friends as well. She was hesitant to get into business, but decided to go for it when friends and family encouraged and supported her.

Janice is currently looking for mall spaces, but her products can be viewed online at http://janiceonline.tripod.com. E-mail her at janfdez@gmail.com for queries and orders.

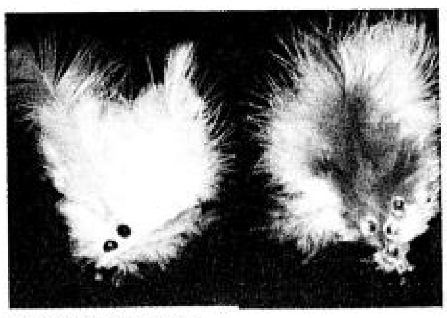


TWEET and Tweet box bag , P695



FELT BROOCH, P85

HIP Belt. Pearl and chain belt with flower charm, P295



FEATHER clips, P80

LG Electronics Revolutionizes Karaoke with the NKS

It is a known fact that Filipinos love to sing. Proof of this is the presence of the karaoke or videoke machines in almost every Filipino household. No party is complete without a videoke session as guests sing their hearts out and let go of their inhibitions, transforming into divas like Mariah Carey or rock stars like John Mayer once they get their hands on that microphone.

Digital leader LG Electronics further enhances this favorite Filipino pastime with its latest offering, the NKS or New Karaoke System, a DVD Player and Karaoke Machine that offers more for the consumer than what is traditionally offered in the market. What makes the NKS a cut above other karaoke machines is its NEW DVD Song Disc which features 2,000 songs! With such an extensive play list, the NKS ensures that your favorite songs across all popular genres and eras are found in this nifty package.

The LG NKS Series includes a Sing Along Challenge feature and a Scoring Function with Fanfare for serious karaoke buffs who would like to take the KTV experience right at their homes. Unlike similar karaoke machines which can only playback background music in MIDI format. The "Vocal" function gives users the option to sing along with the songs' original vocal tracks to familiarize them with the song. They then have the option to disable this function once they're ready to sing on their own.

The NKS is available in four models. The DVD Mini NKS Series include the power-packed, 5-channel LM-K5540; and the 2-channel LM-K2340 and LM-K2540. A more compact DVD Player NKS is also available in the form of the slim-designed DKS-600. All NKS models can read and playback any kind of format, be it in Divx, DVD, DVD + R/RW, Audio-CD, CD-R/RW, MP3, WMA, VCD, SVCD Play-back and Kodak Picture CD / JPEG Viwer. This multi-format capability of the LG NKS Series eliminates the concern of consumers that their old collections of disks will no longer be used, plus its compatibility with almost all popular formats makes it an ideal addition to your personal home entertainment system. You can also watch DVD movies in full Digital Surround in Dolby Digital, DTS and Pro Logic II.

The DVD Mini NKS models are equipped with such features like the XDSS (Extreme Dynamic Sound System) and OAO (Oriental Acoustic Optimizer) which promises to deliver a superb audio experience. It can also function as a regular audio system with its double ,cassette deck and AM/FM tuner.

LG Electronics Philippines was established in 1988 as the digital leader in Home Appliances and Display Devices by introducing breakthrough and cutting edge products in the Electronics, Information and Communications products arena with annual sales of P 2.5 Billion and employing more than 200 highly motivated and skilled individuals.

As a major player in the Electronics, Information and Communications products arena, The LG Digital Display and Multimedia provides core technologies for highly advanced digital products and is a world leader in Digital Display products including plasma TVs, LCD TVs and monitors, and digital high-definition Televisions (HDTV) and its Digital Appliances is a global leader and leading innovator in Washing Machines, Refrigerators, Microwave Ovens and Air conditioners.

LG Electronics' Goal is to enable the intelligent networking of digital products that will make consumers' lives easier than ever. For more information please log on to www.lge.com.ph or call the LG Customer Information Center at 6402525 or send an SMS to LG Text Service at 0917-8242525 (Globe) and 09209002525 (Smart).

ADVT.

Performance reinvented.
The freedom of the stage
The intimacy of a karaoke bar
The electric vibe of both
times 2000 songs in digital surround
in the living room.
Rock n Roll!
Rock on, live on
everybody get it on.
Let New Karaoke System's (NKS) Dolby Digital Surround Sound
change your life for the better.
LG
Life's Good

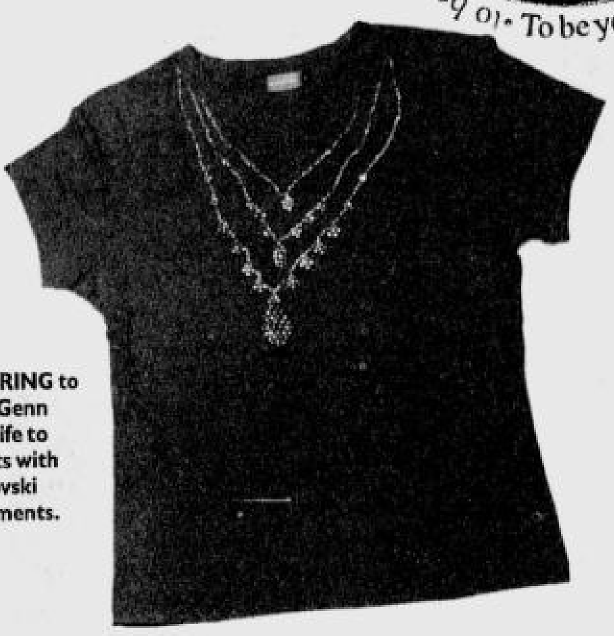
LM-K2340 - 1,300W PMPO / **LM-K2540** - 1,800W PMPO
• 2ch DVD Mini NKS • New DVD Song Disc (2,000 Songs) with "VOCAL" function option • Scoring Function with Fanfare • Sing Along Challenge • XDSS (Extreme Dynamic Sound System) • OAO (Oriental Acoustic Optimizer) • Multi format Playability: Dolby Digital/DTS/Dolby Prologic II, Divx CD/CD-R/RW, VCD/SVCD, MP3, WMA, DVD+RW/-RW, JPEG, Kodak Picture CD • Double Cassette Deck/AM/FM Tuner

LM-K5540 - 2,500W PMPO
• 5ch DVD Mini NKS • New DVD Song Disc (2,000 Songs) with "VOCAL" function option • Scoring Function with Fanfare • Sing Along Challenge • XDSS (Extreme Dynamic Sound System) • OAO (Oriental Acoustic Optimizer) • Multi format Playability: Dolby Digital/DTS/Dolby Prologic II, Divx CD/CD-R/RW, VCD/SVCD, MP3, WMA, DVD+RW/-RW, JPEG, Kodak Picture CD • Double Cassette Deck/AM/FM Tuner

DKS-6000
• Slim Design Karaoke DVD Player • New DVD Song Disc (2,000 Songs) with "VOCAL" function option • Scoring Function with Fanfare • Sing Along Challenge • Multi Format Playability: Divx, DVD, DVD + R/RW, Audio-CD, CD-R/RW, MP3, WMA, VCD, SVCD Play-back, Kodak Picture CD / JPEG Viewer • DTS, Dolby Digital, Dolby Prologic, Dolby Prologic II Support

LG Electronics Philippines, Inc. 15 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City. Tel. No.: (02) 641-4181 to 85 Fax: (02) 640-0460 Customer Information Center (02) 640-2525, 09178242525 & 09209002525 www.lge.com.ph

Initially available at: GMA: Abenson, SM Appliance, Automatic Centre, Price Smart, K-SERVICO; LUZON: Addessa Corporation, BHF Group, CSI, Estrada Enterprises, Saver's Mart, Cruzza, Magic Appliance Center, Ocampos Inc., Alsons Trading, Willy & Son's, Bodega Glassware, Royal Star; VISAYAS/MINDANAO: J Marketing, Citi Appliance (Bacolod), Appliance Centrum, Quality Appliance, Desmark Trading, Wilkris Appliance Corporation, Imperial Appliance, Cleen Marketing, RL Appliance, Villegas Appliance, Gillamac's, EMCOR



FROM BORING to beautiful. Genn breathed life to these shirts with her Swarovski embellishments.

She sparkles and shines

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Raffy Lerma

TWENTY-FOUR-YEAR-OLD Gennevive Karen Ang has possibly one of the most fun jobs in the world. She gets paid to make things sparkle and shine.

Genn, who took up Fashion Design and Merchandising in college, has always loved making things with her hands.

"I love to tinker and do crafts. When I tried embellishing a printed bag, a lot of people were attracted to it. So I decided to seriously get into it as a business."

Since then, Genn has created a career out of jazzing things up with Swarovski embellishments.

She takes her projects seriously, meeting with clients, exchanging photos of design ideas with them. "The brainstorming takes about a week. The actual design takes me a day or two."

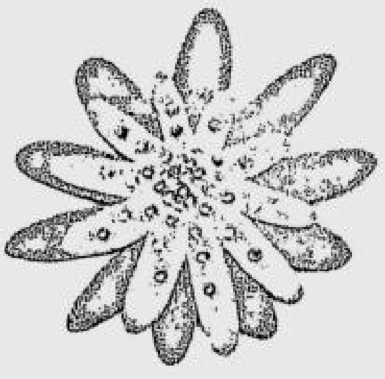
Clients have asked her to embellish all kinds of materials but she loves working with cotton the most. "It's not very delicate and the stones stick easily on the material."

Her best-selling designs include the butterfly and dragon-fly themed ones. "People really like them. But I try not to do the same design twice. If a client really wants a design that I've already made, I change the color of the stones. Also, a lot of people request for initials."

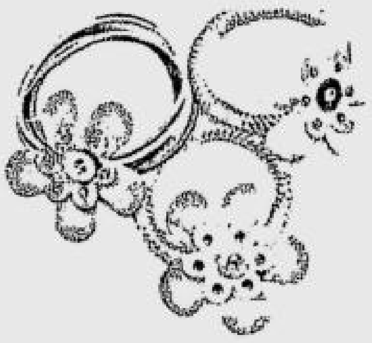
Her favorite masterpieces include a pair of pants on which she spelled "Bittersweet" with crystals and a shirt which she adorned with a coconut tree in crystals and infused hand-beading.

Everything around Genn inspires her. "You have to be able to see beauty in the little things that you see everyday."

Have Genn design a masterpiece for you by e-mailing her at scenestealer@gmail.com or calling 0920-9251456 and 0922-5209139.



SHE can jazz up anything—even bags, ponytail holders and belts



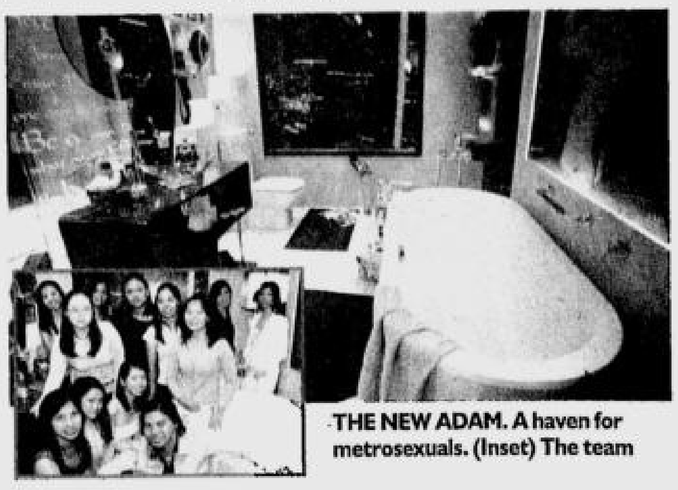
funk up
Download
FREE
PENSHOPPE
TEENLAB
accessory shop
SM Centerpoint • SM Manila • SM Batangas

2bU! LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

PC BUYER'S GUIDE
THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE PC MAGAZINE IN THE PHILIPPINES
Available in leading bookstores, magazine stands and computer shops nationwide.
PROVINCIAL DISTRIBUTORS WELCOME. CALL (02)732.5870 TO 73


THE NEW ADAM. A haven for metrosexuals. (Inset) The team

THE BIG APPLE. Bringing New York to Manila. (Inset) The team

Home sweet young home

By Christian B. Bautista
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Ryan Lim

INTERIOR design students from the University of Santo Tomas recently unveiled their graduation exhibit titled "Suits Me: Interior Spaces with Personality."

The event, which also featured a fashion show from designer Kate Torralba on opening day, offers four exhibits from some of the country's most promising young designers.

The show got its title from every interior designer's goal, which is to make his or her creations "suit" the client's taste.

The four displays in the show serves as the students' graduation thesis.

Rocker's Den and Wipe out are bedrooms that accentuate the owner's musical tastes and lifestyle.

Another piece, The Big Apple, is a living room that mimics the design scheme prominently seen in the popular TV show "Sex and the City."

Lastly, The New Adam is a bathroom designed to cater to the needs of metrosexuals.

If anything, the designers succeeded in making their spaces comfortable. Most of the guests and onlookers at the launching took to the exhibits easily. An elderly woman even asked, *"Pwede bang dito na lang ako tumira?"*

Not bad, considering the students had limited time to come up with their projects. Most of them shuffled between classes and the venue to design and build their exhibits from ground up.

Numerous surprising elements showed up in their creations. Most notable is a fountain and pond within the Wipe out piece, which, as its creators explained, is meant to serve as a stress-reliever.

In The New Adam, meanwhile, modern and vintage items created a sense of elegance befitting a man who has lots of it. The intended client was a 29-year-old metrosexual theater actor.

"He's vain. He loves himself. So we were confident to use bold colors," explains Nadia G. Adarna, one of the designer-students. The display had mostly blue tones with plum accents, which, as Adarna notes, represents the client's feminine side.

Rocker's Den had a completely different look. Practicality and elegance was the aim for the piece. The design for the room certainly fitted a laid back unmarried couple in their 30s. The musical taste of the couple was made evident with artworks that hung from the walls.

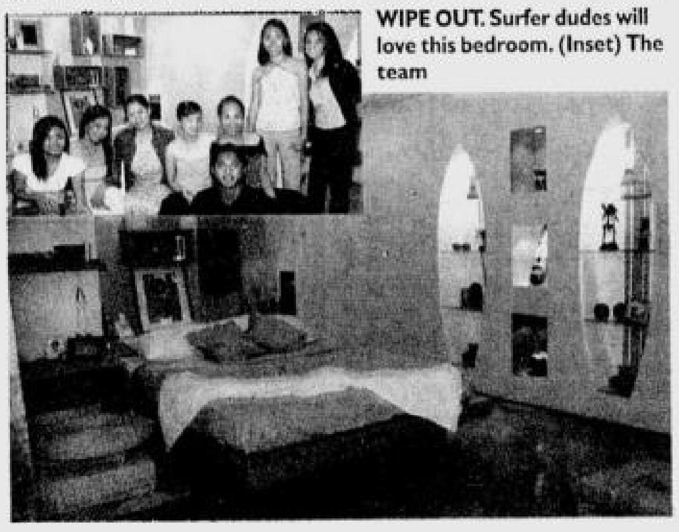
Wipe Out, on the other hand, was patterned after the carefree lifestyle of a surfer in his mid-20s. Thus, the room featured olive green and yellow ochre to represent love for nature.

The Big Apple was quite different. While recognizably New York, it was tweaked to suit the Philippine setting. The goal for the piece was to maximize space, which was achieved with well-placed accessories.

The exibit runs until March 4 at the basement of the Paseo Center in Makati City.

If you want 2bU! to cover your school events, e-mail ls_2bU@inquirer.com.ph.

ROCKER'S DEN. This room rocks. (Inset) The team


WIPE OUT. Surfer dudes will love this bedroom. (Inset) The team

Join the 2bU! Summer Camp

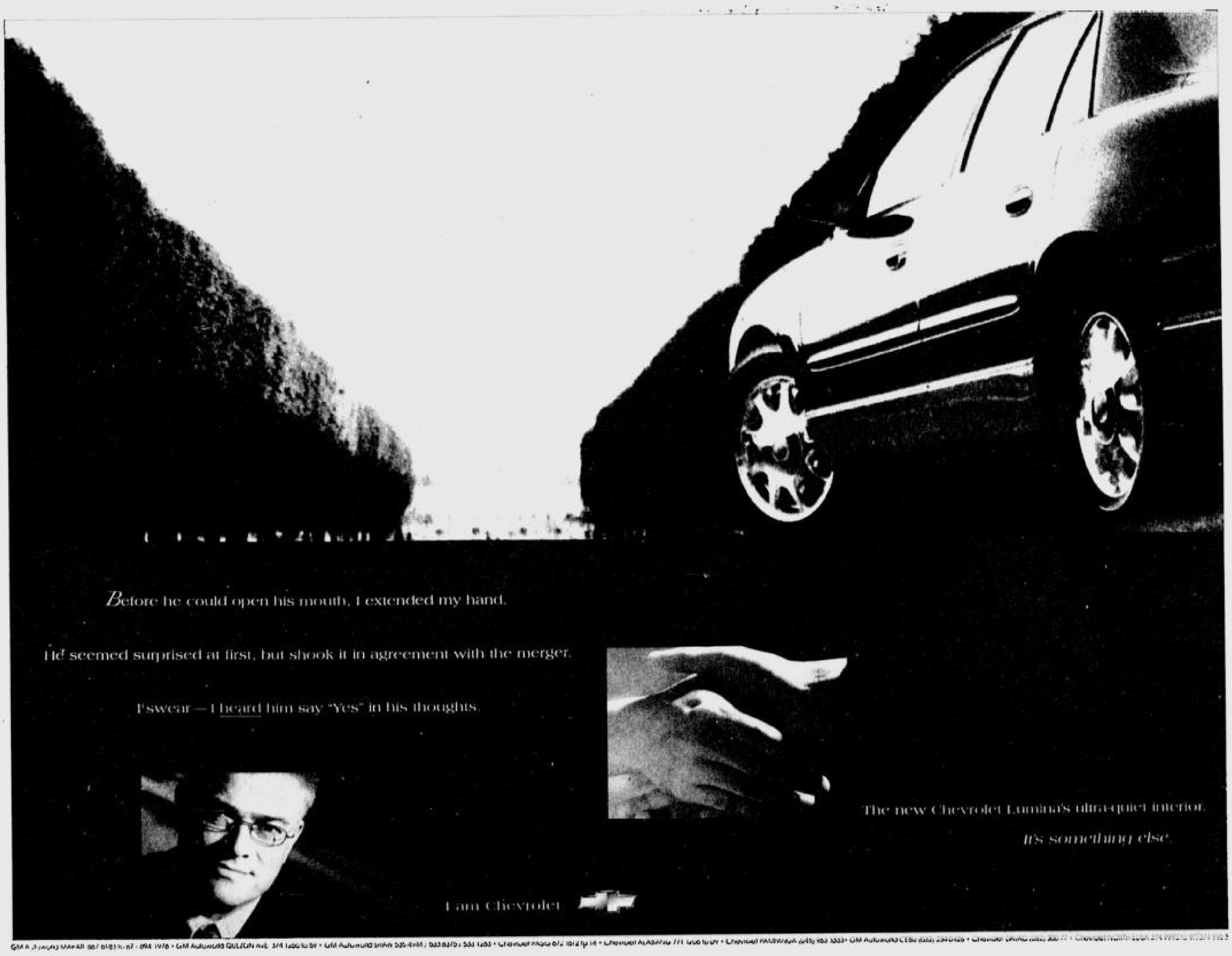
THREE days of fun and learning. New insights from interesting personalities. Opportunities to explore your own gifts. Surprises galore. The chance to become 2bU! editors for a week.

Three members from 30 student publications will be chosen to join the first 2bU! Summer Camp in April.

We are looking for editors and staffers of high school and college publications. We want to get to know you better. Tell us about the members of your staff, your struggles and triumphs and send your best issues to 2bU! Summer Camp Philippine Daily Inquirer Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Streets Makati.

Make your summer count, join the 2bU! Summer Camp!

11th Annual Shape Up Philippines SUPER promo:
Sign up and get 3 FREE Abs-Sculpting Treatments!
For February 24, 2005 only Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6869, Series of 2005
Marie France Bodyline
Call 894-BODY now!


Before he could open his mouth, I extended my hand.
He seemed surprised at first, but shook it in agreement with the merger.
I swear — I heard him say "Yes" in his thoughts.
The new Chevrolet Lumina's ultra-quiet interior.
It's something else.
I am Chevrolet

PRETTY urban living. cK's fun spirit equals dainty clothing for the modern romantic.

FLORAL pastel paradise. Spring is here, so let's all indulge.

SCARFING the issue. It's the season to accessorize and layer your outfits—it's cool to be hot.

SUMMER LOVIN'. Dressing up should be a blast, so get ready with your ammunition.

DREAMY SUMMER. Powder blue is also a key color for spring.

HONG KONG — "White is the color of the season!" exclaimed **Kevin Carrigan**, creative director of Calvin Klein, during an exclusive preview of the cK Spring/Summer 2005 collection set against the panoramic view of the Hong Kong skyline.

The 38th level of Three Pacific Place on Queens Road became ground zero for all folks who gathered to witness the fashion feng shui straight from the style horse's mouth.

Tim Yap

"I created the cK line with a cool international urban girl in mind, adding playful and feminine touches, a very modern collection in the true spirit of Calvin Klein," said Kerrigan, highly spirited himself, as he hugged us, and expressed his interest of coming to Manila.

Manila was represented by white-clad **Celine Lopez** and myself; we were sent by Store Specialists Inc. (the cK store is in Rockwell's Power Plant Mall, as if you didn't know) to cover this chi-chi event. Asian celebrities came in full force, complete with their caboodle of agents, publicists and the like. Celine and I just had our trusty little camera hidden in our pockets.

The people I usually see in Japanese and Chinese glossies were all there. While New York Fashion Week had **Katie Holmes** on Calvin Klein designer **Francisco Costa**'s front row, celebrated Asian pop star **Daniel Wu**, supermodel **Danielle Graham**, A-lister **Yumiko Cheng** were all around the party floor, surrounded by Asian journalists whose name cards read GQ Taiwan, Elle Singapore, Men's Uno Beijing and the like.

Romance, romance

To emphasize cK's fashion statement, the whole floor, a contemporary architectural space, was swathed in sleek and stylish white decor — an illuminated white bar and white carpeted stage that doubled as a chic studio atelier where the 40-plus models romped around in ravishing cK ensembles, all exuding the clean, crisp and fresher than sunshine looks that Calvin Klein is known for.

More than just plain white, the cK look was romantic white. Old-time innocence in a modern setting is all about the detail: Think dainty skirts, embroidered smock tops and pastel pretty bow sashes. For spring, jackets are required commodity as this season's jacket tops everything from fuller skirts to slouchy pants.

The skirt goes fuller, more favored in pastel pinks and greens to signal the start of the floral season. The little sweater or dainty sweaters [illegible] sleeve, the [illegible] topes and shrugs are a cute addition over basic tops and mix with everything from denim to skirts.

Cardigans and chiffon tops—embellished with sequins—look fresh again for spring.

For men, it's color, color, color: orange tank tops, turquoise shirts and pastel pink pants topped with white jackets and fun trench coats. To accessorize them are flamboyant belts in yellow and striped scarves in blue and orange. It's true, men are the new women.

Fitted blazers—ending above the hip—look best for the Asian silhouette. Why we like it: Smaller sweaters and belted or shrunken jackets keep the layered look from being too bulky.

So for spring and summer seasons, it's okay to layer and play with the colors of the season since it's really the time to enjoy and frolic in the sun. And for us in the tropics, that's almost the whole year! That means if there's any collection that we have to get for ourselves, it's this one.

CK SPIRITED. The cK jacket has a great new shape that makes your waist lo tiny. Girls, go for it at the cK store in Rockwell Power Plant Mall.

TRENCH FRY. Dick Tracy cool

SEA PRINCESS. Ready for the water

LIME EXCUSE. Juicy pastel couture for cK Spring/Summer 2005

AT THE CK party in Hong Kong. Creative director Kevin Carrigan (center) with Celine Lopez and Yaparazzi

DAMSEL not in distress

COOL CASUALS. For the international urban jet set that exudes the cK spi

American Idol 4
See It First on Star
STAR WORLD
Every Wed & Thurs 4pm & 8pm

2BU! PROMO

Win 'American Idol' goodies!

NO doubt about it, the heat of the competition is starting to build up.

For weeks now, we sat through excruciating auditions, laughed in disbelief at some of the weirder attempts and crossed our fingers for our early favorites.

Last week, the 24 finalists were revealed. Things are getting more and more exciting.

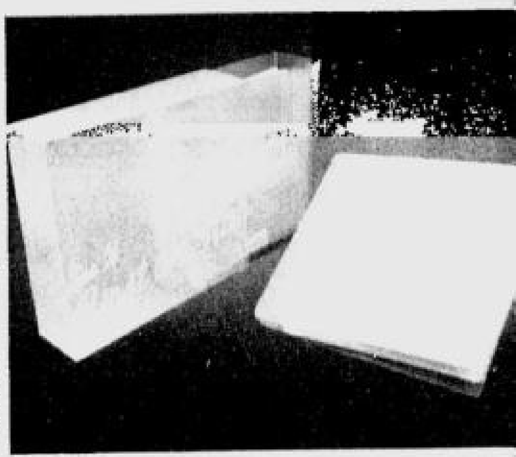
Are you rooting for Constantine the rocker? Or do you want miracle boy Anthony to wow the judges? Do you believe Mikalah has what it takes or is she just too brash for you?

To add even more fun to this season's "American Idol," 2bU! and Star World will be giving away exclusive "American Idol" premium items starting this week.

E-mail your answers to the following questions to americanidol_on_starworld@yahoo.com. The first five people who will send correct answers will win.

1. Who are the judges and what are their jobs?
2. Who is hosting the show?
3. Who won the first season of "American Idol"?
4. Who won the second season?
5. Who won the third season?

Catch "American Idol" on Star World with direct off satellite telecasts on Wednesday and Thursday at 4 p.m. and primetime replays at 8 p.m.

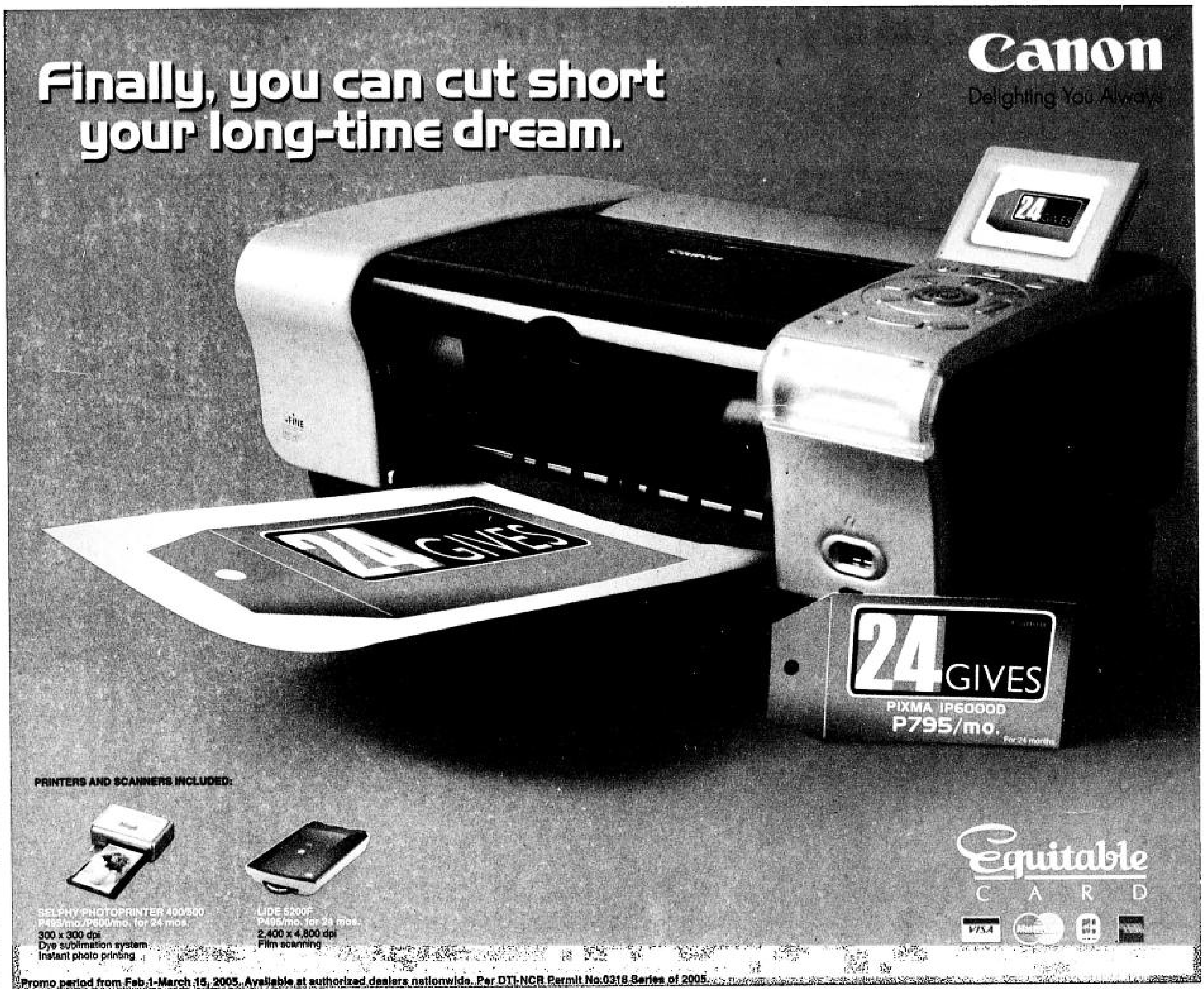


BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THE RETURN of the peasant blouse

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

SAY GOODBYE DARK SCAR FOREVER


Finally, you can cut short your long-time dream.
Canon
Delighting You Always
24 GIVES
24 GIVES
24 GIVES
PIXMA IP6000D
P795/mo.
For 24 months
Equitable CARD
VISA

PRINTERS AND SCANNERS INCLUDED:

SELPHY PHOTOPRINTER 400/500
P495/mo./P600/mo. for 24 mos.
300 x 300 dpi
Dye sublimation system
Instant photo printing

LIDE 5200F
P495/mo. for 24 mos.
2,400 x 4,800 dpi
Film scanning

Promo period from Feb 1-March 15, 2005. Available at authorized dealers nationwide. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0318 Series of 2005.

Available at the following dealers: Abenson 638-8017, Accent Micro 634-2417, Ambassador Appliances 633-5224, Anson's 892-2208, Automatic Center 729-6450, Avenue 733-5474, AV Surfer 807-3541, Camera Haus 635-6038, Electroworld 633-1624, Island Photo 752-7585, Kameraworld 633-5081, New Canary Photo 727-1687, Photoline 536-7919, Picture City 807-5143, Silicon Valley 633-1724, Western 637-8422
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2/F Marvin Plaza Building 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City Tel: (632) 812-6047 loc. 259 Fax: (632) 810-9797

Take Home
Kenny's Fresh-Baked Muffins
3 savory flavors
classic corn
new mint choco
new chocolate lovers
6 muffins for only
P45
I love muffins
Kenny Rogers Roasters TM

Promo period
Feb. 14 - March 31, 2005

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0777, Series of 2005.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Jars of Clay in Manila

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

PROBABLY one of the first Christian Rock Bands to emerge in the mid-'90s (of course, along side dc Talk), Jars of Clay has won over millions of fans across the globe with their singles "Five Candles" and "Crazy Times." And good news—they're coming over to Cebu on Feb. 28, and Manila on March 2! Sweating for a ticket?

Tickets to Jars of Clay Show You Love Live in Cebu, Live in Manila now available at SM Ticketnet outlets in Metro Manila and in Kaona Grill at the Cebu Business Park. Cebu ticket prices: 250, 500, 800. Manila ticket prices: 350, 500, 950, 1250, 1450, 1650, 2050, and 2350. Concert dates: Feb 28 (Cebu, B.R.I.G.H.T. Academy, Banilad) and Mar 2 (Araneta Coliseum).

Acne Problems?
Get 'em off your back.

Now you can have a clear, smooth back that's totally free from painful, unsightly acne. Our **LightCure Acne Therapy** effectively treats moderate to severe acne on your back, face, or any part of your body – **3 times faster than other acne treatments!** It destroys acne bacteria and reduces skin inflammation, without harming other tissues and with a long-lasting preventive effect.

Coupled with **Power Peel**, the safest exfoliation treatment for the whole body that combats blemishes and reverses acne scars, your back will soon be smoother, softer to the touch.

Call the Facial Care Centre professionals now for your free consultation.

Facial care centre

CALL 892-SKIN (7546)

Where Beautiful Skin Happens
www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

MAKATI ORTIGAS QUEZON CITY SHAW ALABANG BINONDO CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA (961-3404) CEBU (233-7631)

"Itaga mo sa bato!"
Sagot ng PSBank ang pinaka-mababang home loan interest rates

Secure your home loan now with PSBank's **LOWEST** rates ever for the 3- or 5-year interest fixing period.

INTEREST RATES		
FIXING PERIOD	PSBANK	OTHER BANKS
3 - year 5 - year	11.50% 12.00%	12.00% to 13.50% 13.25% to 15.00%

* Rates subject to change without prior notice.

MONTHLY AMORTIZATION		
FIXING PERIOD	PSBANK	OTHER BANKS
3 - year 5 - year	P11,682 P12,002	P12,002 to P12,984 P12,818 to P13,996

* For every loan amount of P1,000,000 with a 15-year loan term.

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

PSBank Center, 777 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeño St., Makati City

Apply at any **PSBank** branch nationwide.
For more information, call 888-5194, 845-0025,
885-8208 loc. 8404, 8407 or 8409,
e-mail us at info@psbank.com.ph,
or visit www.psbank.com.ph

PSBank Home RATE PROTECT